Asean moves closer to pact with China on Spratlys

STORY ON PAGE A2

Tommy Suharto gets 15 years for murder

JAKARTA—An Indonesian court on Friday declared the youngest son of former dictator Suharto guilty of paying two hit men to murder a Supreme Court justice and sentenced him to 15 years in jail.

"The defendant has been proven guilty of all the charges," said presiding Judge Amiruddin Zakaria.

TOMMY/A7

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Who's afraid of Copa?

Peping says they're under surveillance, their phones bugged

By Donna S. Cueto
and Norman Bordadora

WHO is afraid of Copa?

President Macapagal-Arroyo is, according to the leaders and key members of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) who visited the INQUIRER office last Thursday night. And they want to know why the President had become "overly sensitive" about Copa and "suspicious" of its movements.

They want to ask the President: "Why are you afraid of us?"

Copa founding member and prime mover, former Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, said that Copa members are under surveillance and their landlines bugged. Their conversations are no longer secret to Malacañang.

"We would float some things and they reach the President. But the information gets twisted," said Cojuangco who had supported the President's appointment of Sen. Blas Ople to replace Vice President Teofisto Guingona as foreign secretary.

Copa itself repeatedly opposed the appointment of Ople, a former political ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada, because he had started expulsion proceedings against Guingona after he delivered his "I Accuse" privilege speech against Estrada in October 2000.

Somebody in the Palace has been "twisting information on Copa and poisoning the President's mind," said Pastor "Boy" Saycon, Copa secretary general. "We don't know who that is," he added.

Cojuangco said that the bugging was particularly intense during the "Freedom Force" controversy last April when Copa was allegedly behind a destabilization plot against the Macapagal administration.

Copa believes that the high-tech bugging equipment being used on them, and on others perceived as "national security threats," may be the very same equipment purchased by former police chief and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson during the Estrada administration for the

WHO'S/A7

ROGER MARGALLO

BURNING BUSH: President Macapagal leads officials in the ceremonial burning of P60-million worth of marijuana in General Santos City. The 6-hectare marijuana plantation in Malungon, Sarangani, was discovered by Philippine Air Force intelligence operatives and raided by the NBI.

Gloria goofs on kidnap leader's 'fall'

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
and Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MALUNGON, Sarangani—An exasperated President Macapagal-Arroyo was forced yesterday to retract an announcement she made minutes earlier that suspected Pentagon leader Faizal Marohombsar had surrendered to authorities.

The President, who was here to attend the town's 33rd founding anniversary, said she had been given wrong information. She assured reporters that negotiations were ongoing for the surrender of the suspected kidnap gang leader.

It was in the middle of her 15-minute speech before a crowd of more than 1,000 at the municipal gymnasium that Ms Macapagal announced the purported surrender.

"I am glad to announce to you that Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang leader Faizal Marohombsar is now in the hands of government authorities," she said.

She then went on to cite other positive developments in her administration's campaign against crime:

- The raid conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation on a six-hectare marijuana

GLORIA/A6

Trust funds of pre-need firms short by ₱4B

By Elena Torrijos,
Gil Cabacungan
and Rocky Nazareno

AT LEAST eight other pre-need companies aside from industry leader College Assurance Plan Phil. Inc. (CAP) have incurred trust fund deficiencies, an official of the Securities and Exchange Commission said yesterday.

The shortfall amounted to P4 billion as of May 2001. The amount includes the P2.5-billion trust fund deficiency of CAP, the country's largest education pre-need company.

An INQUIRER report on CAP's trust fund problems last Wednesday has drawn attention to the financial health of the multibillion-peso pre-need industry offering education, pension and memorial plans to middle-income investors.

Trust fund deficiencies place in grave doubt the ability of pre-need firms to meet future claims of their plan holders.

Legislators and various government officials have called for an investigation into the state of the industry as well as stricter rules and closer supervision. Some are urging the transfer of supervision of pre-need companies from the SEC to the Insurance Commission.

The SEC, the champion of full disclosure in corporate governance, has refused to disclose

TRUST/A16

No way Biazon will jump ship, unless …

By Cynthia D. Balana

THERE is "no way" Sen. Rodolfo Biazon will jump ship, "unless there is a compelling reason."

Biazon made this declaration yesterday to reporters in the course of denying that he was one of two opposition senators supposedly preparing to join the administration coalition.

He said that he was annoyed by reports to this effect, and that some administration senators were floating his name without first consulting him.

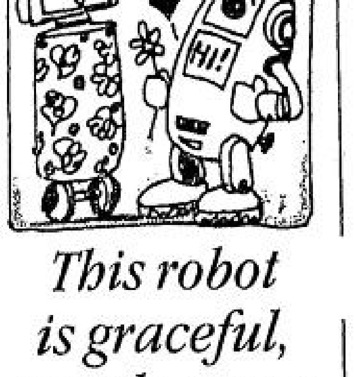
Asked what the "compelling reason" could be, he said: "I don't know, but I will recognize one when (it's there)."

He recalled that during the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada, he was compelled to vote for the opening of the second envelope contrary to his party's position because he believed that "the truth was being concealed in that envelope."

Biazon said the administration offered him the chairmanship of the Senate committee on national defense last year and in April this year, but on condition that he would join the administration coalition.

He said the courting intensified last June, the start of the

NO WAY/A15



HELLO, HOW DO YOU DO?
HI!

This robot is graceful, people-savvy

PITTSBURGH—A group of scientists who set out to build a robot with human social skills may have actually improved on humanity: Their creation courteously steps aside for people, smiles during conversation and politely asks directions.

The 6-foot robot, named

THIS/A6

Bush seeks $25M military aid for RP, gets $55M instead

By Jennie L. Ilustre
PDI Washington correspondent

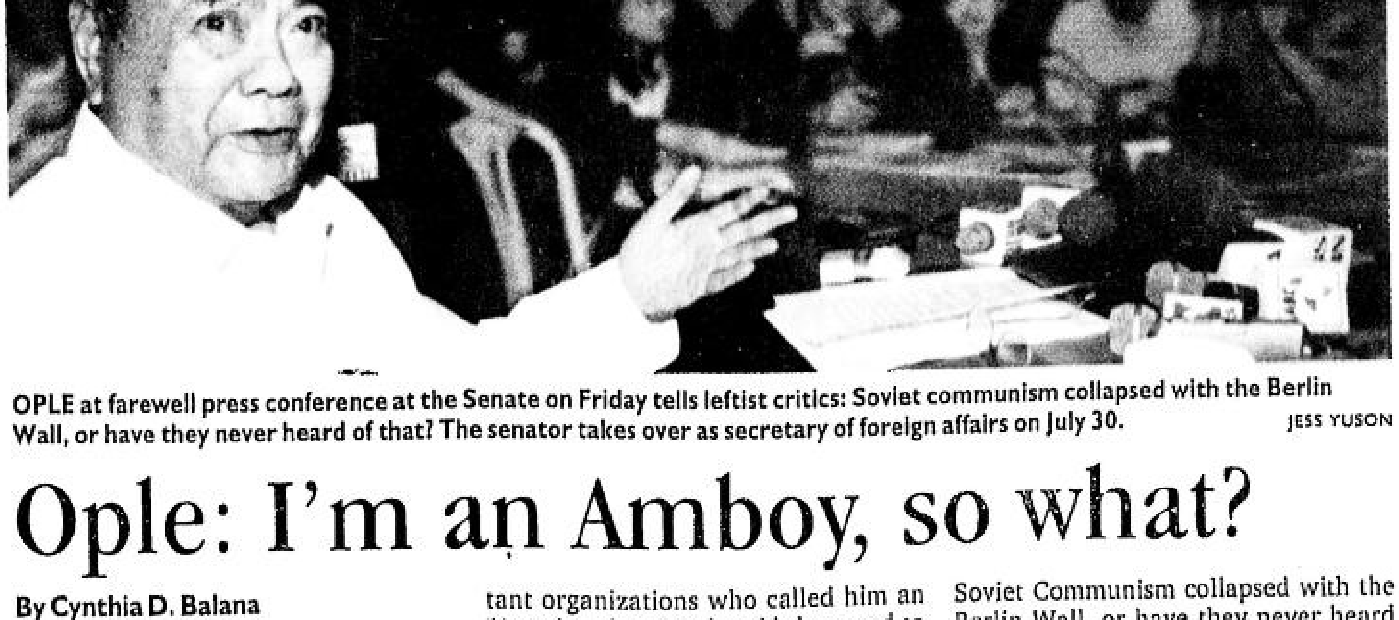
WASHINGTON—The $55 million in foreign military financing that has been earmarked for the Philippines by the United States represents an increase of $30 million over the Bush administration's original request.

Albert del Rosario, Philippine ambassador to Washington, said President George W. Bush had originally requested Congress to approve $25 million for the Philippines in the emergency supplemental budget for 2002. He made the request in appreciation of President Macapagal-Arroyo's early and all-out support for the US-led global war against terrorism.

"On top of this, the Bush administration had asked an additional $15 million in economic support fund (ESF) . . . for Mindanao," Del Rosario said in a report to Ms Macapagal last Tuesday.

Del Rosario, in a teleconference with the President and 11 other ambassadors, said the US House of Representatives and Senate bi-

BUSH/A16



OPLE at farewell press conference at the Senate on Friday tells leftist critics: Soviet communism collapsed with the Berlin Wall, or have they never heard of that? The senator takes over as secretary of foreign affairs on July 30. JESS YUSON

Ople: I'm an Amboy, so what?

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Martin P. Marfil

FOREIGN Secretary-designate Blas Ople yesterday admitted to being a friend of the United States and said he would not apologize for it.

Taking a swipe at leaders of militant organizations who called him an "American boy," Ople said they used to idolize the Soviet Union and had sworn eternal hostility to the United States.

"They continue to nurture historical delusions about the inevitable triumph of Marxist-Leninist ideology," he said. "We have no use for such criticism. Soviet Communism collapsed with the Berlin Wall, or have they never heard of that?"

Ople said his admiration for the United States did not make him unpatriotic and anti-Filipino.

"I do admit that I am a friend of the

OPLE/A15

MABUTI NAMAN NANG MAAYOS ANG GULONG YAN

Asean moves closer to pact with China

SENIOR Southeast Asian officials on Friday broke a longstanding deadlock to pave the way for a possible landmark code of conduct with Beijing over disputed South China Sea territories, including the Spratly Islands.

Philippine Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Lauro Baja said the compromise formula, which is understood to avoid mentioning specific territories, would be submitted to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers for approval.

Asean's common position would then be the basis for negotiations with China, the most powerful of the claimants to islands in the South China Sea—one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

Asked if the Asean senior officials have reached a consensus, Baja said "yes," but only on their level.

He said the senior officials will endorse the draft of the revised code to the ministers. If approved, Asean will then consult with China to seek its approval.

"It's a breakthrough," Baja told reporters.

The senior officials are preparing for the annual gathering of foreign ministers of the 10-member Asean on Monday, to be followed by a meeting with their security allies, including the United States, European Union, China and Australia on July 31.

Makarim Wibisono, head of the Indonesian senior officials' delegation, said he saw no problems with the Asean ministers approving the code.

"We have a positive and constructive way of settling the differences and right now we are in the process of consulting with the capitals. And I have a feeling there will be no difficulties with the capitals," he said.

"This is an achievement on our part because we have been discussing (the issue) for more than two years," he added.

Asean ministers as a group will meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan on Aug. 1 during which the proposed code could be discussed.

Four Asean states—the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam—as well as China and Taiwan have laid partial or entire claims to the Spratlys, an island group in the South China Sea believed to sit atop vast natural gas deposits.

All except Brunei have stationed troops on their claimed islands, making the area a potential flashpoint for military conflict, defense analysts have said.

China and Vietnam are also both vying for the Paracels, another South China Sea chain lying 300 kilometers north of the Spratlys.

Accusations of intrusions as well the building of structures on some of the islands have caused tensions to rise in the past, leading to a proposal in 1999 to establish a regional code of conduct to govern activities there.

But approval for the code has been hampered by disagreements on whether it should cover the entire South China Sea or only the Spratlys, or the Paracels, or other disputed chains.

Baja said the officials adopted a Philippine-initiated phrasing, which skirted the thorny issue of geographic coverage.

Manila's proposal called for the adoption of a code "without prejudice to territorial claims and maritime regimes or jurisdictions" recognized under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The UN convention provides that coastal states have economic rights over a 320-km zone from their shores.

At the same time, a new security landscape emerging after the Sept. 11 terror attacks has sparked calls for a shakeup of Asia's top security forum, which holds its annual meeting in Brunei next week.

In a region where two nuclear-armed rivals (India and Pakistan) are in a tense standoff and where terrorist groups lurk in the shadows, analysts say the Asean Regional Forum, or ARF, should be more aggressive in preventing conflict.

"ARF is being forced by current circumstances to reorient itself to be responsive to crisis situations and not just be a forum for security dialogue," Asean spokesperson M.C. Abad said. *AFP*

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PNP readies new rules on maximum tolerance

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—New "maximum tolerance" guidelines for the police will be released on Monday, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Philippine National Police chief, said here yesterday.

Ebdane said the guidelines for dealing with demonstrations would take note of what he called "traditional activist signals" that usually indicated when violence was about to erupt from the protest lines.

"Leaders of protest marches disappear when trouble ensues," Ebdane said, hinting there was a process involved.

Ebdane's statement supported police claims that the violence that erupted during the dispersal of protesters near Malacañang Palace on Monday night, after the President's State of the Nation Address, was triggered by provocateurs from the ranks of left-wing groups like Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Sanlakas.

Bayan Secretary General Teodoro Casiño disputed this, saying many protesters were hurt during the dispersal.

President Macapagal earlier said maximum tolerance was not a provision of law, but a government policy, and that the police handling of Monday's rallies saw the last of it.

In her Sona, the President declared she was building a "strong republic" where laws would be strictly applied, no matter who got hurt.

Ebdane chaired this month's National Law Enforcement Coordinating Council (NLECC) meeting at Camp John Hay in Baguio City. But the session made no reference to the new anti-riot rules being drawn up at Camp Crame.

A group of activists tried to test the reduced "tolerance" policy this week outside of Malacañang's Gate 7, but the protesters were quickly turned back by riot policemen.

Ebdane said the guidelines and a controversial anti-terrorism measure now being pushed by Malacañang were not tools to destroy civic rights.

"We have a 'no permit, no rally' policy, but we normally tolerate 'no permit, (and still) there's a rally' situations. This needs a review," he said.

Meanwhile, the word from Malacañang yesterday was, "Remember Edsa 2."

Militant groups protesting the scrapping of the maximum tolerance policy were urged to measure the conduct of their demonstrations against last year's uprising.

Over dzBB radio, Conrado Limcaoco, presidential adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs, said, "In Edsa 2, not a stone was hurled at the police. It was really peaceful."

He assured militants that their right to assembly and free expression would not be curbed with the scrapping of the maximum tolerance policy. *With Carlito Pablo and Juliet Javellana*

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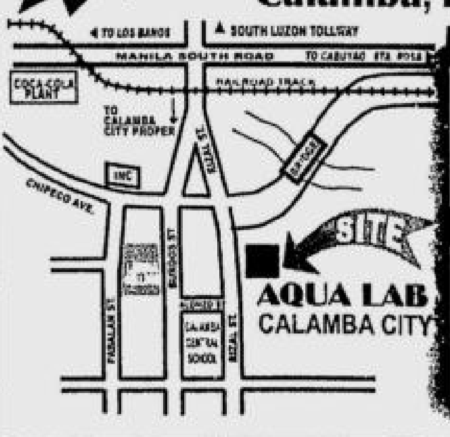

Robbers attempt second break-in at Parsons home

IT didn't seem to matter that Sonny Parsons had fought back. Or maybe because he did, the intruders were back yesterday.

Unidentified men tried to barge anew into the Marikina home of actor Sonny Parsons before daybreak, but iron grills foiled their attempt. Nobody was reported hurt.

Parsons, Jose Nabiola in real life, said witnesses saw at least three men armed with an Armalite rifle and handguns alight from a red Nissan Sentra and try to enter his house between 2 and 4 a.m.

"They climbed over the fence of my elderly neighbor to get to our house. They destroyed the aluminum door at the side entrance, but could not get past the iron grills," the former Marikina councilor said.

It was at this point, Parsons' lone police guard said, that he noticed something was amiss. He proceeded to check out the premises, but the men had gone.

Parsons, former singer and action star, said the three men might have been members of the same gang that broke into his home last week. He expressed the fear the group was determined to avenge the deaths of two of its members he had shot dead.

The gang had "powerful" protectors, Parsons said. Despite security provided him by the Philippine National Police, he claimed, gang members have continued to monitor the movements of his household members. He cited an attempt to abduct his housemaid following the July 18 incident.

Six men barged into Parsons' residence last week, tied up the whole family and took P133,000 cash and other valuables. Parsons engaged the fleeing robbers in a gun battle out on the street as they fled, killing two of them and seriously wounding another.

Parsons said their lives have changed since the incident. At the very least, he said, they have all become "paranoid." His wife Sol said one of their children has left the house to stay elsewhere.

She said her husband could not be persuaded to relocate. This despite the fact he thought Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando had "obviously failed" to curb the rising incidence of crime in the city.

Supt. Cipriano Querol al Haj, Marikina City police chief, said his office had received information that the robbers who attacked the Parsons had posed as *taho*, ice cream or fish ball vendors. *Nelson Flores*

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3 to die before GMA decides on executions

THE GOVERNMENT will carry out the execution of three death convicts before President Macapagal-Arroyo decides whether to keep the death penalty or shelve it.

The President said this was because she wants to make an example of the first three death convicts.

"I'm really against the death penalty as a matter of philosophy but there are exigencies and demands of the times," she told reporters on Wednesday.

"So if I can provide exemplary justice maybe for three times, and I can see that the syndicates begin to think twice... then we will go back to the policy of commuting (death sentences to life imprisonment)," the President went on.

Of the 17 convicts awaiting execution, two were convicted of kidnapping—Ricardo Lara and Roderick Lecayen—while one was convicted of robbery with homicide. The rest were convicted of rape.

The first to be executed will be Alfredo Nardo, a convicted rapist. His execution is set for Oct. 16.
Dona Pazzibugan

Soldier, 3 rebels killed in clashes

AN ARMY lieutenant was killed by sniper fire while leading a raid against suspected communist rebels in San Mariano, Isabela the other day.

In Davao Oriental, three rebels were killed when elements of the 8th Infantry Battalion clashed with a 15-man New People's Army band in Lupon town.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City identified the fatality in Isabela as Lt. Meliton Biernes, commanding officer of Alpha Co. of the Army's 45th Infantry Battalion.

The reports said Biernes was leading a group of soldiers on their way to raid a rebel camp in Barangay Baliao, San Mariano Thursday afternoon when the rebels opened fire.

In Davao, the firefight, which also occurred on Thursday, was sparked after the rebel band was sighted in the jungles of Sitio Mabuhay, Barangay Kalapagan, Lupon. *Martin P. Marfil*

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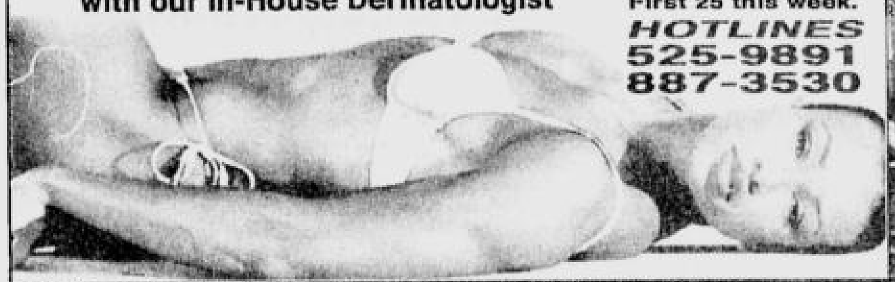

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Storm kills 3 Pinoy seamen off Japan

THREE Filipinos and one Indian were killed when a Panamanian-registered freighter they crewed for was driven into rocks by typhoon Feng Shen in western Japan, a Japanese Coast Guard official said Friday.

"Fifteen crew members swam ashore and were rescued but we confirmed that the remaining four were drowned by early Friday," the official said.

The 36,080-ton Panamanian freighter, with 15 Filipinos and four Indians aboard, ran aground in stormy weather Thursday night some 1.5 kilometers southwest of Osaki, Kagoshima prefecture.

The accident occurred when the Co-op Venture took shelter from typhoon Feng Shen, which moved into the East China Sea Friday morning after bringing heavy rains and strong winds to areas in southwestern Japan.

The victims were identified as Filipinos Andio Anatalio, 48; Delapena Nestor, 45, and Estabas Delmundo, 27, and Indian Surender Singh, 35, the Coast Guard official said.

The freighter left New Orleans, USA, on June 9 carrying corn and was heading to Kagoshima, 950 kilometers southwest of Tokyo.

The crewmembers had boarded a lifeboat after the ship ran aground, but they were all thrown into the water after the light boat hit the ship in high waves and was damaged, Kyodo News Agency said, quoting survivors.

Fuel oil leaked from the ship, which was cut in half after running aground, and has spread over an area about seven kilometers in radius.

The Coast Guard sent four patrol ships to check the environmental impact of the oil slick.

18 dead

In the Philippines, fresh rains added to flooding in Metro Manila and surrounding areas on Friday as the death toll from more than a week of wet weather rose to 18, the civil defense office said.

Most of the dead had drowned in the floods in Manila and the northern provinces as monsoon rains were intensified by a tropical depression.

Nearly 3,000 persons remained in evacuation centers, mostly in the northern province of Pangasinan.

In Manila, floodwaters were waist-deep in some areas while many roads in the northern province of Pampanga were impassable to all but heavy vehicles.

Rains will continue in the northwestern Philippines for most of the day, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

Pagasa said only the seasonal monsoon rains can be expected today as typhoon "Kaka" (international name: Fung Wong) has completely moved out of the Philippine forecast area.

Pagasa said the rains were being brought by the southwest monsoon currently affecting the country.

Monsoon

The weather bureau said western sections of Luzon and the Visayas will experience monsoon rains, while the rest of the country will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Light to moderate winds blowing from the southwest will prevail throughout the archipelago and the coastal waters will be slight to moderate.

Monsoon rains and light to moderate winds blowing from the southwest will affect Metro Manila and the lahar areas.

Pagasa's three-day weather outlook said Western Luzon and Western Visayas will experience occasional monsoon rains.

The rest of Luzon and Visayas will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. *Gerald G. Lacuarta, with an AFP report*

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HINDI ABOT NG MASA
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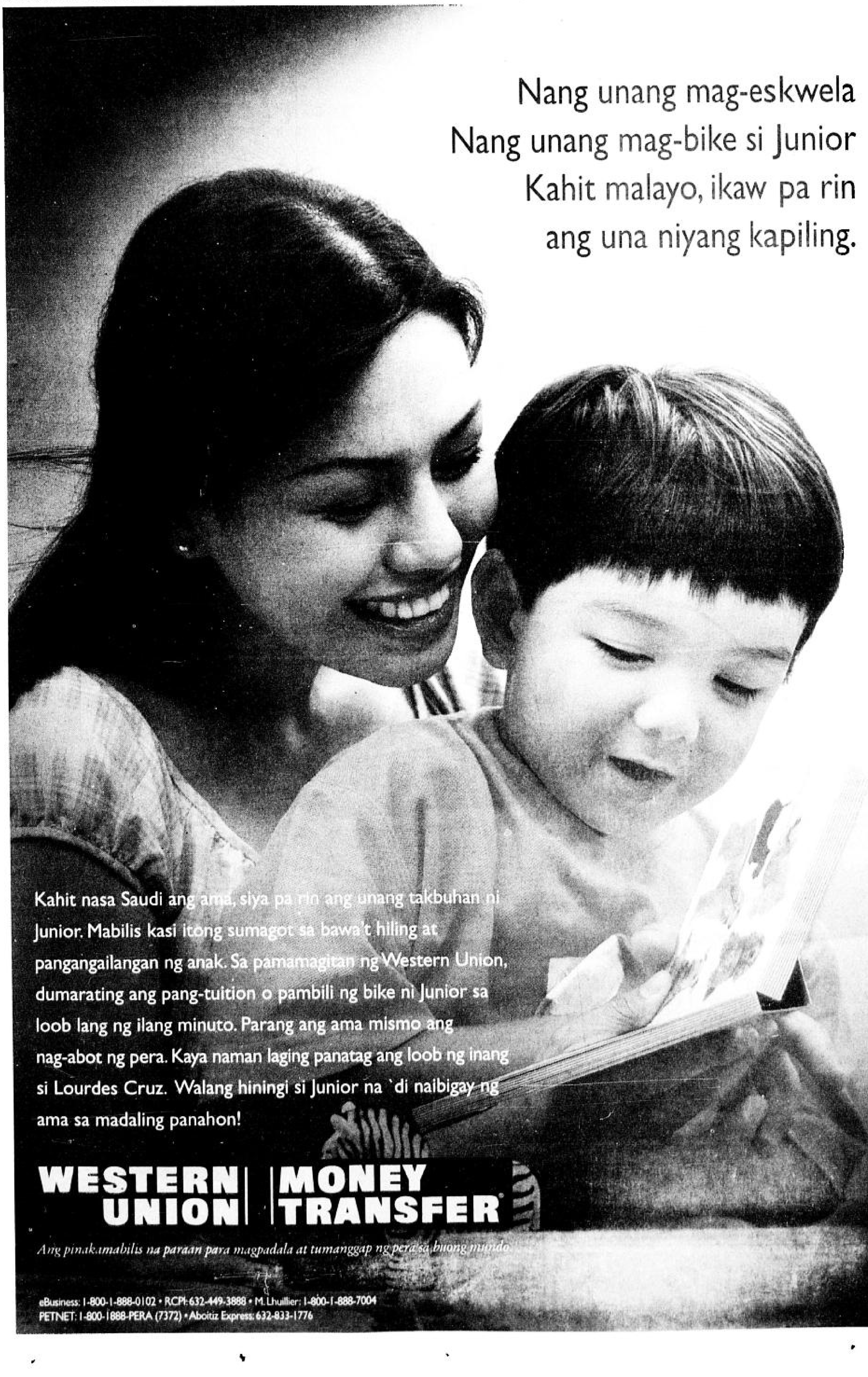
ERIK ARAZAS

ENOUGH ALREADY

Like day-old fish, the *galunggong* issue has started to smell, with members of the militant group Pamalakaya holding a *galunggong* parade on Manila Bay yesterday. Whether the lowly fish is selling for P30, P40 or P80 per kilo, the group said, it was still too expensive for even the poor to afford. They accused the President of using the issue to cloud the true state of the economy.


Nang unang mag-eskwela
Nang unang mag-bike si Junior
Kahit malayo, ikaw pa rin
ang una niyang kapiling.

Kahit nasa Saudi ang ama, siya pa rin ang unang takbuhan ni Junior. Mabilis kasi itong sumagot sa bawa't hiling at pangangailangan ng anak. Sa pamamagitan ng Western Union, dumarating ang pang-tuition o pambili ng bike ni Junior sa loob lang ng ilang minuto. Parang ang ama mismo ang nag-abot ng pera. Kaya naman laging panatag ang loob ng inang si Lourdes Cruz. Walang hiningi si Junior na 'di naibigay ng ama sa madaling panahon!

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'Watch Kris, turn to Jesus, Mary'

By Norman Bordadora

"GAME *ka na ba* (Are you ready)?"

Whenever you hear Kris Aquino say this—the catchphrase from her very popular game show on television—consider consecrating your family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

No, seriously. Former President Corazon C. Aquino herself suggested this yesterday during a prayer rally and mass at the San Felipe Neri parish in Mandaluyong.

Speaking before Mandaluyong's public high school students, Aquino decided her daughter's celebrity would be useful in her latest campaign: to bring Filipino families closer to spiritual salvation.

"When you get home, tell your parents that you saw the mother of Kris Aquino, and that I have asked your families to be consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary," she said. "And whenever you watch 'Game Ka Na Ba?' remind yourselves of my request."

Aquino recently made public her disinterest in an offer to head the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights. She said she'd rather serve her countrymen first.

Now she's on a tour of schools and churches in a continued campaign to bring Filipino families to hear Mass more often and pray the Rosary regularly.

But her more immediate goal is to help consecrate at least one million Filipino families to the Twin Hearts of Jesus and Mary, in time for the Papal Visit next year.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 27, 2002
16th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Jer 7:1-11
Gospel: Mt 13:24-30

Jesus told his disciples another parable, "The kingdom of heaven can be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and left.

When the plants sprouted and produced grain, the weeds also appeared. Then the servants of the owner came to him and said: 'Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?'

He answered them: 'This is the work of an enemy.' They asked him: 'Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?' He told them: 'No, when you pull up the weeds, you might uproot the wheat with them. Let them just grow together until harvest; and at harvest time I will say to the workers: Pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them; then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Commentary

With the parable of the weeds, Jesus answers those who are scandalized at seeing evil everywhere. Good and bad will be mixed till the end of the world. Good and evil will always be found together in persons and institutions. God respects people, and knows that temptation is often stronger than their good intentions, and that they need time to find and to choose steadily what is good. God is patient. The reconciliation of so many contradictory groups, forces and cultural currents active in the world will be attained only at the end of time. In the meantime we are not to label any of them as the "good" ones and the "bad" ones. When we look at our inner experiences we find that truth and error, virtues and vices live together. We need acceptance and patience.

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Reveal results of IPP review, Palace urged

By Christine Avendaño

ROSALES

TEN House members have asked Malacañang to disclose the findings of an inter-agency committee that reviewed the government's contracts with independent power producers (IPPs) that were forged during the Ramos administration.

In a House resolution filed on Thursday, the group led by Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales also asked the executive branch to "cease and desist" from conducting "closed-door, one-on-one meetings" with IPP representatives.

Press reports last week said the committee, headed by Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho, had been holding talks with the IPPs. The meetings reportedly began Friday last week and ended the other day.

The legislators, who believe the talks concerned the renegotiation of the IPP contracts, also asked the Palace to disclose the results of the meetings.

"Any move must be transparent," said Rosales, noting that while the President was talking about transparency in her State of the Nation Address on July 22, "her officials were having clandestine meetings with IPP representatives."

Rosales questioned how the committee could start the process of renegotiation when it had yet to complete a review of the contracts.

She said the committee has to conduct a review of the environmental aspects of the contracts.

The committee has so far completed a financial and legal review. It found 29 of the 35 contracts to be "legally and financially flawed."

The resolution said the closed-door meetings could "(diminish) the chances of possible outright contract termination and could be a potential source of compromises inimical to the interest of the public."

It said that among the contracts lined up for renegotiation are those involving Covanta, Mirant, Mission Energy and several California companies which, it claimed, were "noted for their corrupt and criminal practices, some of which have declared bankruptcy and have been delisted from the New York Stock Exchange."

It urged the House committee on energy to immediately conduct an inquiry into the findings of the IPP review committee.

Aside from Rosales, the other authors of the measure were Representatives Oscar Moreno, Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr., Rolex Suplico, Del de Guzman, Emmanuel Villanueva, Filomena San Juan, Charity Leviste, Carmen Cari, Josephine Ramirez-Sato and Aleta Suarez.

'Clean hands' to smack corrupt judges

CHAVEZ

CLAIMING that corruption in the judiciary has reached a "metastatic and worrisome degree," former solicitor general Francisco Chavez has launched what he calls "Operation Clean Hands"—the exposure by practicing lawyers of corrupt judges.

Chavez said it is practicing lawyers, who deal with judges, who know of the corruption in the courts. He said it was time to use this knowledge to a good end.

"Corruption in the judiciary and the prosecution arm of the government has reached a critical level. We have to do something and act fast to stop this. We cannot allow this culture of corruption to prevail," Chavez said in a letter sent to law firms.

"We cannot allow this culture of corruption in the judiciary that threatens not only the integrity of our profession but the very essence of justice itself," he said.

Chavez, solicitor general during the Aquino administration, said it was high time practicing lawyers helped to clean up the judiciary.

"Safety nets" will be put in place so that "Operation Clean Hands" would not be used by lawyers to harass judges, he said.

"By way of policing our ranks, we also intend to expose, prosecute and push for the conviction and disbarment of lawyers who corrupt judges and prosecutors. The path will not be easy, but we should have the mind and the will to cross swords with anybody who seeks to thwart our lawful and legitimate purposes," he said.

At least 20 big law firms have initially been asked to get involved in the organization of "Operation Clean Hands."

Chavez said the movement would assist the Supreme Court in cleansing the judiciary. But it would also go after justices who might be linked to corruption if there is evidence against them, he said.

"The active involvement of the lawyers in cleansing the judiciary is long overdue. We can still save the justice system," he said. ***Donna S. Cueto***

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Bill regulating cosmetic surgery filed in House

HOLD that nose job, and rethink that tummy tuck.

Increasing reports of dis-figurations and even patient deaths resulting from cosmetic surgery has prompted administration Rep. Prospero Nograles to seek the regulation of the thriving industry.

The Davao City solon filed yesterday House Bill 5037, which limits the practice of surgical cosmetic dermatology (SCD) to qualified physicians with sufficient residency training.

In a statement, Nograles said numerous facial care clinics and beauty salons have on their menu of services these "sensitive procedures" which also included breast lifts, facelifts, hair transplants, chemical skin peels and laser skin surgery.

But, he said, many of these establishments were being run by people without medical training.

"It's not like going to the barbershop for a haircut," Nograles said. "A slight mistake (in cosmetic surgery) could be life-threatening."

In fact, he said, accidents have resulted in permanent disfigurations and even death. But because there is no law that regulates the practice, he said, patients have remained unprotected and mishaps have continued unabated. ***Christine O. Avendaño***

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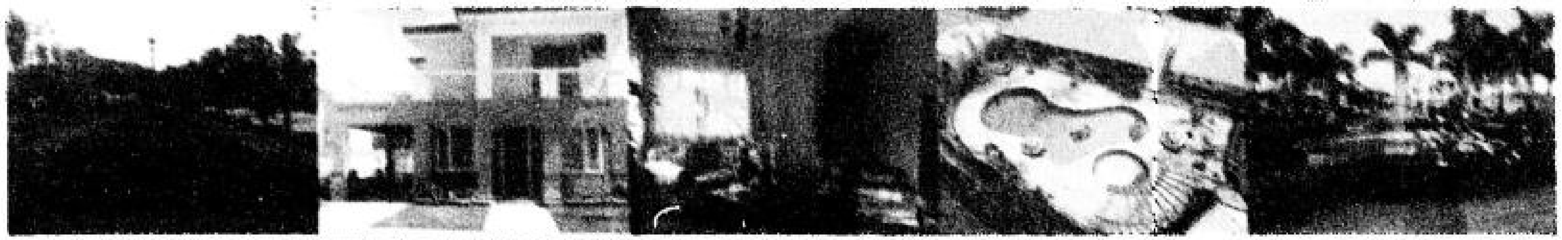

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This robot is graceful, people savvy

From page A1

GRACE for Graduate Robot Attending Conference, will wander during a symposium on artificial intelligence that begins this weekend, where it will demonstrate its good manners. It will try to sign in at the registration desk, find a conference room, give a speech and answer questions.

GRACE, a drum-shaped contraption with a digitally animated face that appears on a computer display, is the work of researchers at Carnegie Mellon University and elsewhere.

GRACE is the only autonomous machine—that is, one without remote controllers—entered in the mobile robot challenge at the American Association of Artificial Intelligence's national meeting in Edmonton, Alberta.

Other robots will be attending—some clad in tuxedos and serving hors d'oeuvres—in an attempt to show off the latest machines that can move safely and naturally among people.

GRACE was designed by her principally male creators to be female. But in form, at least, she is not much of a woman.

It has no arms or legs. Instead, its barrel-shaped torso, sheathed with sonar panels and black plastic bumper guards, rolls on wheels. GRACE cannot handle stairs or escalators.

The robot's feminine attributes are limited to a voice that sounds like an automated telephone operator and a heart-shaped cartoon face with big blue eyes and high cheekbones. But the voice and lips are poorly synchronized, making GRACE look like a character in a poorly dubbed foreign film.

On Sunday, a team of nervous designers will watch as GRACE attempts the challenge.

The robot's laser and sonar components are supposed to sense distances and steer GRACE around people. Its camera vision system and speech recognition software are supposed to recognize humans' hand gestures and words.

And its artificial intelligence "brain" is supposed to gather all the information and tell the machine how to react.

Whether GRACE will accomplish all these things without a slip-up—while acting, well, graceful—is the question.

"This is so far the hardest thing I've ever done in my career," said Robotics engineer Bryn Wolfe, a 17-year industry veteran involved in the project. "That's why I'm so nervous about it."

Carnegie Mellon computer scientist Reid Simmons, coordinating the GRACE project with help from the Naval Research Laboratory, Swarthmore College, Northwestern University and defense contractor Metrica Inc., gave GRACE a 50-percent chance of completing all her tasks.

Simmons, who said the robot was made female because he believes women communicate better than men, solicited drama students to teach GRACE how to act like a human. It was a tough task.

"Just think of what a robot would have to do just to answer a question from a person in terms of speech recognition," said competition co-chair Holly Yanco. "Not only that, but people ask questions in different ways."

Ultimately, the Carnegie Mellon team hopes to teach GRACE to schmooze, by recognizing a person and asking questions. *AP*

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Gloria goofs on kidnap leader's 'fall'

From page A1

plantation in the boundaries of Malungon in Sarangani and Kiblawan in Davao del Sur.

- The death of Commander Tropical, top leader and founder of the Abu Sufia Gang, during a shootout with law enforcers on Thursday afternoon.

Tropical was responsible for the abduction of Korean treasure hunter Jae Keon-yoon and his friend, General Santos City hotelier Carlos Belonio.

At the end of the President's speech, the crowd applauded with enthusiasm.

But shortly afterward, a staff member of the Office of the Press Secretary summoned reporters to the town mayor's office, where Ms Macapagal was waiting.

In an exasperated tone, she said Marohombsar was still on the loose.

Fortunately, information on the death of Tropical was confirmed.

Police officers told the INQUIRER that Tropical resisted arrest and engaged authorities in a brief shootout near Sultan Kudarat province on Thursday.

They said three of the kidnap gang leader's companions—identified as Salahudin Amopa, Rustom Sambaga and Rashid Dudin—were captured and were undergoing tactical interrogation by Sarangani police.

Who's negotiating?

But exactly who's negotiating with Marohombsar?

In Baguio City, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Philippine National Police chief, said Marohombsar had finalized his surrender terms with unnamed military officials when the President announced his surrender.

Ebdane told reporters that the matter was up to the suspected gang leader: "Whatever (the negotiation terms were), *bahala siya sa buhay niya* (his life is in his own hands)."

According to Ebdane, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front leadership has issued a directive for the "neutralization" of Marohombsar.

The MILF directive complements a shoot-to-kill order issued against the fugitive, he said.

Marohombsar escaped from a minimum detention cell at Camp Crame last month. Ebdane said the police had a stake in his capture.

In Manila, lawyer Anthony Liongson, domestic intelligence chief of the National Bureau of Investigation, said bureau emissaries were in the thick of negotiations with Marohombsar for his surrender at the time of the President's announcement.

He said he was taken by surprise. But he did not say where the negotiations took place.

Liongson said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco had not yet given "instructions" on what to do with Marohombsar's demands when the announcement was made.

But he said the negotiations with the suspected gang leader were continuing.

Liongson said Marohombsar sent surrender feelers to the NBI right after he escaped with two others from their detention cell in Camp Crame.

Anniversary activities

After her meeting with reporters, the President resumed her activities in line with Malungon's anniversary.

She distributed 3,000 durian and 3,000 mango seedlings to farmers; led the turnover rites for the three mechanical dryers worth P.5 million each; and gave out two units of 90-horsepower, four-wheel tractors worth P4.28 million.

The President also distributed 1,250 pouches of assorted vegetable seeds to farmers, Certificates of Group Insurance for the 41,338 coconut farmers in Region 12, planting materials for 200 indigenous people in Malungon, and assorted medicines from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

She then presided over a closed-door luncheon meeting with local government officials of Region 12.

At past noon, she headed to General Santos City and boarded her plane for her trip to Marawi City. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza in Manila; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Who's afraid of Copa?

From page A1

Philippine National Police.

But two can play at this game. Copa members "plant" certain information in their phone conversations.

Asked why Copa does not lodge a complaint about the bugging with the proper authorities, Saycon said, "Why will you complain? Number one, if you complain, you just make them feel that you're afraid (of them). So let them do it. We have nothing to hide."

"Why is she paying so much attention (to us)? Obviously, she knows much more than what she is letting on, and what she knows she will (not say). Why is she reacting like that? What does she know?," said Copa spokesperson Jose "Boy" Montelibano.

Montelibano said that the President seemed to be "so emotional" when it comes to Copa, to the point that earlier this month she had alluded to Saycon as a "termite" after Copa had spoken out against the Ople appointment and the recruitment of three other Estrada allies—the Puno brothers and Jimmy Policarpio—to work with the administration.

"The fight is not about personalities. It is about the inconsistency between values and principles of Edsa versus what these persons did in the past during the Estrada and Marcos administrations, and the cultivated image of statesmanship that these characters now garb themselves with," said Saycon.

Saycon added that while the group recognizes the prerogative of the President to appoint anyone to any position in government, Copa believes that "being in government should not come at the expense of trading one's inner compass for salient acquiescence and unqualified acceptance of official policy."

"Why pay attention (to us) in the first place? There must be 2 million people griping out there. Why does she (the President) consider us a security risk? What does she know about us? We don't have the numbers. We don't have an armed force" Montelibano said.

Help prop up GMA

Copa made it clear that contrary to the President's suspicions, they want her administration to succeed.

"Lest our government fall into the hands of extremists," said Cojuangco.

"We want to help her prop up her administration," Cojuangco added.

The Copa leaders took pains to explain that their members are just people who want to help the country with no plans of destabilizing the government. In fact, Cojuangco had founded the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) as Ms Macapagal's political vehicle to run for vice president in 1998. Cojuangco's wife Tingting used to chair Kampi.

Montelibano said that Copa only becomes "bigger than life" because the President responds so intensely to its public pronouncements.

"And we got a lot of heavy intense news on things that we did not initiate," he said.

"Many times it's not her (who would first react), but she jumps," Montelibano noted.

"We can't think of any reason why she would be so sensitive in a way that is related to junta. *E, huntahan lang naman ang ginagawa namin,*" he said.(What we do is just talk.)

Copa which was launched at the villa of Cardinal Sin in 1999 started out as a gathering of gourmands. Its slogan is: "Be informed. Be concerned. Be involved." Its mission is to preserve the gains and spirit of Edsa I and II.

Pay no mind

Montelibano had one advice to the President: "Don't mind Copa."

"We are not (political) candidates. We don't need the majority. We only need one to 2 percent. How many people went to Ayala, Mendiola, Edsa (rallies)? Just one percent," Montelibano noted.

"It's not the majority, but the critical mass that the majority will accept. So maybe, that's what she is afraid of," he said.

He said that COPA just becomes "bigger than life" when they land in the papers' front page, mostly because of the President's reaction to them.

With Ople assuming his post on July 30, Copa said it is now up to the people how to deal with Ms Macapagal's action.

"We won't call for a revolution. But it would be up to the people if they want to register their protest," said Saycon.

"We've already said what needs to be said. We've already done what needs to be done. Now it's up to the people what to do next," Saycon said.

Cojuangco, who's the younger brother of former President Aquino, said that Ms Macapagal could not stop Copa members from making "constructive" criticisms.

For instance, Copa had merely expressed its "strongest objections" against "the personalities being considered by the President to help her administration (because) they do not (have personal moral integrity)."

The problem may be that the President would not listen to criticisms which Cojuangco observed appears to be a tendency of people in power.

Cojuangco related that the same thing happened with him and his sister, President Aquino, whenever he told her about criticisms of her governance that he heard outside the Palace.

"There is such a thing as making comments that we feel are constructive. I think for every President that I've seen anyway, there seems to be a point when they hear only the things that they want. The moment somebody else says something else then that doesn't sound good to their ears, then they don't want to hear it," Cojuangco said.

"That happened between me and Cory," he said. He recalled that whenever he came to see his sister, the President, she got into the habit of saying, "*O ano na naman ang problema mo?*" (What's your problem this time?)

"But I don't think that you can stop anybody here from giving their views and hoping that these views will be considered. Not necessarily followed, but at least considered," he said.

But in time, Montelibano feels that the problem between Copa and the President would "heal itself."

Tommy . . .

From page A1

In addition to murder, Hutomo Mandala Putra, better known as Tommy, was found guilty of illegal weapons possession and fleeing justice.

Another member of the five-judge panel, Andi Samsan Nganro, said Tommy paid 100 million rupiah (US$11,000) to the two assailants and ordered them to kill the judge, who had sentenced him to an 18-month prison term for graft.

The murder trial was considered a test of post-Suharto Indonesia's ability to overhaul a notoriously corrupt judicial system.

AP

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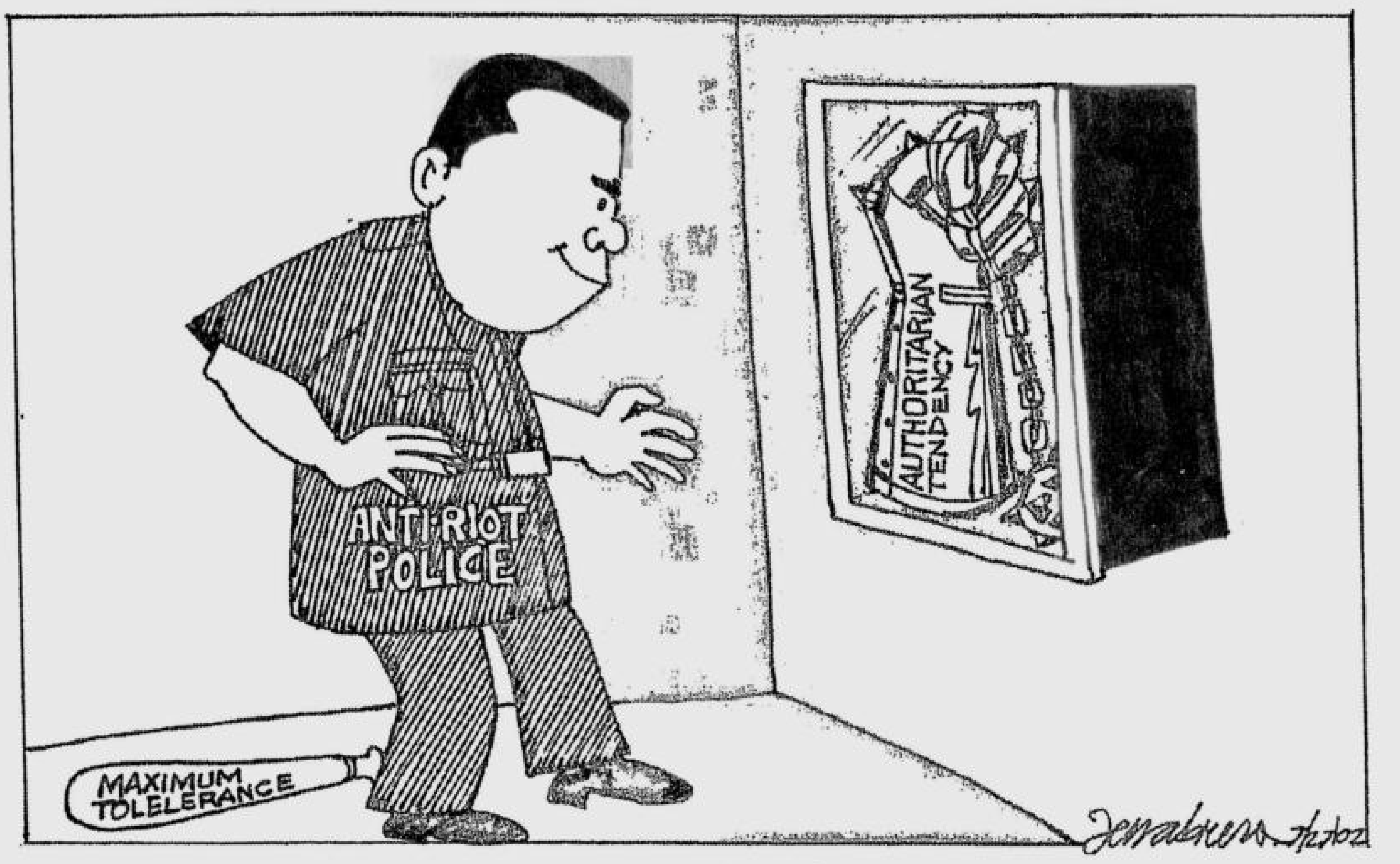


Unstable majority

EDITORIAL

THE DEFECTION of opposition Senators Blas Ople and Robert Jaworski has allowed the administration to regain control of the Senate, but the new majority has to clear up a mess.

The 13-10 majority is not a comfortable margin that would allow the administration's Senate allies to ride roughshod over the opposition. Opposition senators are holding up the reorganization of the chamber over the issue of the legality of the rump session they held after staging a coup on June 3.

The opposition demands that legislation hurriedly passed during the rump session of June 3 to 6 by what it claimed to be the "new majority" be recognized as legal. The administration senators want to expunge from the Senate journals the bills passed during the rump session and reintroduce them for a new round of legislating.

Whether or not the rump session was legal and whether the "majority" that took control of the Senate after Sen. John Osmeña switched to the opposition on June 3 could reorganize the committees are questions that remain unsettled. Neither side seems eager to take the issue to the Supreme Court for decision, and the opposition is pressing its demand, creating another situation that could lead to an impasse.

But the defection of Ople and Jaworski has overtaken the issue of legality of the rump session. Jaworski is not helping to untangle the knot with his position that although he has crossed over to the government side, he would still vote for the recognition of the legality of all actions taken during the rump session, including the approval of a pet bill of his.

The administration bloc has the numbers to reorganize the committees and to brush aside the issue of the rump session. After all, in legislative politics, the ground rule is the winner takes all.

But the new majority can throw overboard the June 3-6 legislation and decide it does not exist only at great risk. They have to secure the cooperation of the minority in forging a consensus on a legislative agenda. Without this cooperation, and with a slim majority, the administration faces a rear-guard guerrilla action from the opposition to block its priority bills.

This is the reason the administration does not feel secure about a 13-10 edge and it continues to recruit new allies. It wants to broaden its base, for as the Senate coup of June 3 shows, the opposition will not miss an opportunity to grab control in a situation in which the balance can be tilted by a single renegade vote.

Long-term stability in the Senate is the administration's strategic objective as it consolidates President Macapagal-Arroyo's position in preparation for the 2004 presidential elections. The President has set out extremely ambitious goals for the remainder of her term, especially the building of a "strong republic," and she can't afford disruptions in the Senate that could lead to gridlock and paralysis.

The opposition can't be blamed entirely for the volatility in the Senate. In democratic parliamentary politics, the role of the opposition is to embarrass the government, make it look bad, dig dirt, or present an alternative agenda, and, if there's a chance, seize control of the legislature.

The last was what the opposition did on June 3, but what made it look opportunistic and mean was that it offered no alternative program. It was a power grab for its own sake, and so the opposition came under heavy fire from public opinion for what seemed to be a senseless action.

Still, it must not be forgotten that the composition of the Senate lends itself to such instability. The May 2001 senatorial elections created a precarious balance of power in the Senate, when opposition candidates and those of the administration won nearly an equal number of seats in the Senate, making coalition-building a necessity to win a working majority. The shift of Osmeña to the administration, and his defection on June 3 underlined this.

In the pursuit of long-term stability in the Senate, the administration has rewarded with plum positions recruits from among allies of ousted President Joseph Estrada. This has shattered Ms Macapagal's old coalition while she builds a new one. A further complication for her is that while the new recruits helped break the Senate deadlock, they are not necessarily the most desirable assets in her adulterated Cabinet. She is paying a heavy price for these trade-offs.

Reviewing for the bar exams

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT'S bar review time again, with thousands of nervous students boning up for the bar examinations scheduled on the four weekends of September. The bar review courses used to be concentrated only in Metro Manila, but some have since been organized in Cebu, Davao, Legazpi City and other places in the south. The decentralization has benefited many students in those areas who otherwise would have to spend a small fortune on board, lodging and other miscellaneous expenses during the five-month review course.

When I was the bar reviewer in Political Law and International Law in many colleges in Metro Manila, I could easily identify the reviewers from the provinces, or the "outsiders." (I do not use this term derogatorily but only for purposes of comparison.) They were the ones who assiduously took notes during the lectures, evidently of things they had never heard before in their earlier studies. They were not merely reviewing these matters but actually learning them for the first time. The "locals," by contrast, just sat by recalling old lessons like familiar friends.

I do not mean to disparage the law colleges outside Metro Manila, which, I am certain, are generally competent. But the availability of reading materials is a problem that can impede the student's learning in some of the small law schools with inadequate libraries. Since 1995, I have been conducting part of the bar review in Political Law organized by the UP Law Center in Cebu and Davao, and my recurrent observation is that many of the reviewees lack up-to-date reading and review materials. Some have copies only of the Constitution. Those who have approached me to autograph my books for them have presented me with earlier editions mostly grown obsolete.

Books are necessary to the law student as tools are to the carpenter. With the rapid developments in jurisprudence and legislation, it is necessary for the bar candidates to keep abreast of the changes in the law. The bar reviewer is there to help, but mostly by only reminding them of general principles; after all, he is handling only a review. He cannot discuss the details, as in the regular course, because of his limited time to cover the field assigned to him.

Fortunately, it is the practice now of the review courses to distribute among its enrollees what are familiarly known as "handouts," consisting of case reports, important statutes and other pertinent materials. This is one of the advantages not usually available to the bar candidate who must, for financial constraints, make do with reviewing only by himself.

As the bar examinations draw nearer, rumors will begin to fly about the "psychological make-up" of the chair of the bar examination committee and his probable committee members. Are they liberal or conservative? What are their political leanings? Enterprising Bar Operation groups will get a "profile" of each examiner and try to anticipate the questions he will ask. They will study his past examination questionnaires if he is a professor, his *ponencias* if he is a judge, or cases he has won as a practitioner. Some may even try to discover the examiner's favorite justice and study his decisions too.

There is the current conjecture that as the chair of the coming bar examination committee is Justice Vicente V. Mendoza, there will be much emphasis on American jurisprudence in the coming tests. The common impression is that, having taken up post-graduate studies in the United States, he is a disciple of Mother America even in legal matters. That is a stupid fear, of course, because the candidates are supposed to be tested on their knowledge of our own laws and not of others. A contrary policy would be especially hurtful to the candidates from the provinces where local textbooks are hardly available, let alone foreign law publications.

I do not mean by this that American decisions should not be excluded altogether for the rule in legal hermeneutics is that imported statutes carry with them their imported interpretation from the country of origin. That is the reason why our Supreme Court often dances to the tune played by American courts. As much as possible, however, we should rely on our own interpretation of such laws based on our own conditions, needs, and even temperaments and idiosyncrasies. We do not need foreign decisions as a mental crutch.

Bar examinees during my time were much more self-reliant compared to the present crop of candidates. The adult bar candidates today are being *coddled*. We did not enjoy the benefit of the present Bar Operations sponsored in practically every law college, including breakfast lectures, mass prayers, busing to the examination site, and even hotel billeting. While the examinations are in progress, well wishers keep watch outside—parents and spouses and siblings and sweethearts—while student groups cheer their respective candidates with streamers and song and, before, even floats.

Every bar examination is a celebration, but the results are another matter. These are received with mixed feelings of joy, unbelief and despair.

Comparing provinces

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IN PURSUIT of greater accountability on the part of public officials, it shouldn't only be the President who should be made to account for the performance of her administration before the nation. Don't you think it would be a great idea if, analogous to the State of the Nation Address, it would be standard operating procedure—nay, a requirement—for local executives to give their Sopas, Socas, Somas and even Sobas every year? That is to say, their respective State of the Province, City, Municipality and Barangay Addresses, as the case may be.

Maybe the Department of the Interior and Local Government has issued such an order. But if it has, I'm not sure it is being obeyed by the local officials. I have come across such reports, but I was always under the impression that they were voluntary on the part of the officials involved, and only the executives with something to be proud of bothered to make such a report or publish it.

However, if we want to get an idea of how provinces compare with one another (and indirectly of how well their elected officials are doing their job), statistics are readily available. The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) has since 1998 come out yearly with a set of statistical indicators for provinces (and a much smaller set for cities), called "The Countryside in Figures." The National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO) also conducts an Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (Apis), which tracks the performance of these provinces with respect to filling the minimum basic needs of their poorest families.

"Countryside in Figures" also has a separate section which lists the top 10 provinces for each category, such as "highest in total tax revenue," "highest in growth rate of tax revenue," "highest in BIR revenue collections," "highest in employment rate," and "highest in percent of case outflow to inflow." (It used to rank the provinces also according to their performance in the elementary and secondary achievement tests, but that indicator was not included in the 2001 report.)

The Apis, on the other hand, tracks provinces in terms of how the minimum basic needs of the poorest 40 percent of their families have been met, and gives the national ranking of these provinces (from 1 to 77, with No. 1 denoting the province which has most met a particular need).

The tragedy is that very few people seem to know or care about these data. Provincial governors and city executives for the most part seem to be generally unaware that such documents even exist. And civil society may be only slightly better informed. Which is why, when the Apis for 2001 was not conducted (for lack of funds), there was hardly a murmur of protest from either the National Anti-Poverty Commission or civil society.

This, frankly, does not speak very well of the strength or sincerity of our commitment to win the war against poverty. How strong or sincere, after all, can that commitment be, if we can't be bothered to monitor the situation regularly?

Another report which can be used to measure the performance of provincial executives, specifically in increasing the choices available to their citizenry, is the Philippine Human Development Report (PHDR). The latest one, PHDR 2002, also ranks provinces—but according to measures of human development as well as human poverty. It lists down not only the top 10 but also the bottom 10 provinces since it is not a government report and hence is not afraid of budget cuts to be made by enraged officials.

The top 10 provinces in terms of human development (as of 2000)—which includes measures of longevity, knowledge and standard of living—were already mentioned in my July 13 column. The bottom 10, however, were not: Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Masbate, Western Samar, Eastern Samar, Sarangani, Romblon. It is hard to ignore the fact that the five provinces at the very bottom of the list are all in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Just to give us an idea of how large the disparities are in the Philippines, the provinces were treated like countries and compared with other countries: Rizal had a higher human development index (HDI) than Thailand, which had almost the same HDI as Cavite. Northern Samar was closest to Guatemala; Ifugao was about on the same level as Swaziland. Basilan had a slightly higher HDI than Cambodia. And Sulu and Cameroon were neck-and-neck.

The 10 provinces which showed the most marked gains in the fight against income poverty (based on the percentage point change in poverty incidence) between 1997 and 2000 were Southern Leyte, Davao Oriental, Batanes, Biliran, Apayao, Eastern Samar, North Cotabato, Nothern Samar, Benguet and Siquijor. The 10 provinces which were the biggest losers in the war against poverty were Basilan (poverty incidence rose from 30.2 percent to 63 percent), Tawi-Tawi, Sultan Kudarat, Cantanduanes, Lanao del Norte, Romblon, Negros Occidental, Maguindanao, Marinduque and Zamboango del Sur (poverty incidence rose from 31.9 percent to 42.2 percent).

The provinces which had the least unequal income distribution were Sulu, Lanao del Sur, Apayao, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Sultan Kudarat, Cagayan and Bulacan. The provinces where incomes were most unequally distributed were Catanduanes, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Norte, Leyte, Rizal, Negros Oriental, Bohol, Iloilo, Capiz and Camarines Norte.

(To be continued)

Cracks in the opposition wall

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TO MANY people, the impact of Sen. Edgardo Angara's "counter-Sona" the other day was dampened by the simultaneous appearance of the news report about the testimony before the Sandiganbayan of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson about how he and other cronies of former President Estrada were asked to contribute P1.2 million each, for a total of P13.2 million, to buy what must have been a diamond necklace for Erap's favorite mistress, Laarni Enriquez, on her birthday. Despite Angara's efforts to paint the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as worse than Erap's, I think many of us are thankful that at least no mistresses are now being showered with extremely expensive gifts. As one observer put it, just think, that necklace went to just one mistress and think of what the other mistresses and wife No. 1 got for their birthdays and other occasions.

* * *

Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, who served for a long time as Sen. Blas Ople's aide, assures critics of Ople's appointment as foreign secretary that they will be "surprised" by his "performance." I am one of those who are eager to be "surprised." For while the intellectual prowess of Ka Blas in his younger days and his achievements in the field of labor are still being recalled, I'm afraid what lingers in our memory is that of a senator who sat through the entire impeachment proceedings in the Senate without uttering one word. I covered the Senate trial every day and I never heard his voice. Finally, when he appeared to have awakened from his meditations, he voted with 10 other senators to keep the second envelope sealed. To many citizens, Ka Blas' tragedy is that despite his mental prowess, he was always on the wrong side of history, first with Marcos and then with Erap, and loyal to them to the very end.

* * *

The buzz in the Senate during the last few days was that Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel didn't want to keep that post anymore. Yesterday's papers reported that he was ready to relinquish it to Sen. Vicente Sotto.

This could indicate that the cracks in the opposition wall may be deeper than everyone thinks. Pundits opine that Pimentel might have resented the fact that while theoretically he was the leader of the opposition, in reality the power was not in his hands. For instance, while he was the new majority leader during the June 3 reorganization, it was Demaree Raval, Angara's lieutenant, who became Senate secretary, not his trusted man, former Eastern Samar Gov. Lutgardo Barbo (now the post has been given back to Oscar Yabes).

Then, too, Sen. John Osmeña is a wild card. While he has joined the opposition, it's no secret that he's not too hot on Angara with whom he now is forced to have a working alliance. In addition, Osmeña now finds himself seated between Senators Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan, whose human rights records he doesn't exactly admire.

In addition, the Senate media speak of a growing division between the cooler heads like Pimentel and Angara and the hotheads led by Lacson.

* * *

I was only too glad to get away from politics for two and a half days last weekend and fly to Bohol via Cebu, courtesy of Cebu Pacific. In Bohol a number of us representing various sectors continued judging the paintings of various artists on sailboat canvases, depicting the preservation of our marine resources. The "Gallery of the Sea: Water Arts Festival," was conceptualized and organized by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez. Our work as judges began in Boracay early last June when, led by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, we chose the winners from among 50 huge sails.

At Bohol's Alona Beach on Panglao Island, we chose 13 winners from among 30 sail paintings, with the first prize going to "Reflections" by 18-year-old University of Bohol fine arts student Eric Catot. The third leg of the "Gallery of the Sea" will be held in Batangas in September. Apart from the cash prizes, the winning sail-canvases will be exhibited at the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesberg, South Africa, from Aug. 26 to Sept. 4, and in October at the Ministerial Meeting on Water in China.

* * *

It was an incredible time to be in Bohol, since it was celebrating the 437th anniversary of the Blood Compact between Datu Sikatuna and the Spanish conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legaspi with a 10-day "Sandugo sa Kalinaw 2002," billed as an "International Eco-cultural Fiesta for Global Peace and Understanding." The celebration was spearheaded by the Boholano Foreign Friendship Foundation, whose president is Hans Schoof, a German national who has fallen in love with his adopted island of Bohol (not to mention a beautiful Boholana named Lani whom he married), and the Boholano Sandugo Foundation, led by artist Lutgardo Labad. President Macapagal and Secretary Alvarez graced the festival's opening, which saw dancing in the streets, last July 17. When we arrived over the weekend, we were simply swept up in the rousing eco-cultural ferment. The typhoon passing through the Visayas threatened to spoil the program, but mercifully the rain stopped at around noon last Saturday and all of Tagbilaran City, it seemed, turned up at Alona Beach to look at the sail-canvases and make their own choices of winners. I was happy to note that among the kibitzers were many students from various schools there as well as many foreigners who had traveled from faraway places to join in the celebration of Bohol's Sandugo Festival. *(To be continued)*

Poverty and power

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

POVERTY is relative, declares the UNDP Human Development Report. Obviously, poor people in rich countries will still be richer than poor people in poor countries. But even when they enjoy generally higher incomes (or more social security), the poor in the developed world may feel even more isolated and deprived amid a sea of plenty than poor people might among neighbors who share and understand their plight.

This is how the report explains the situation: "As a country gets richer, its inhabitants require more expensive goods and services to take part in normal life. Children may be unable to join in classroom conversations if their parents do not own a television; a construction worker may be unable to get work without a car. Such goods, once luxuries, become necessities as they proliferate throughout society. So, even in a rich country with no absolute income poverty, relative income poverty may lead to absolute poverty in important dimensions of human development—such as education, self-respect or the ability to get decent work."

Come to think of it, poor people in Metro Manila, who every day gaze upon the gleaming edifices of prosperity and live surrounded by images and messages of consumerism, must feel their poverty much more keenly than do poorer barrio folk unreached by TV who think misery is everyone's common lot.

So is poverty only a matter of comparison? I would think hunger and poor health, among other things, would make for fairly objective criteria. But it seems to me that tribal folk, such as those in TV documentaries, appear far happier than the sullen denizens trudging through our dangerous streets.

* * *

BUT even as poverty is relative, depending on the social setting and personal expectations, there are also various ways of measuring it. One of the most telling indicators is powerlessness. Feeling cut off from the mainstream, ignored and overlooked by the people you vote into office, is not just a consequence of poverty, it is a cause of it. Lack of access to power structures, and the inability to articulate one's demands or make one's voice heard have impact on far more than just economic status or political power. Such "disabilities" also determine a person's level of self-esteem, the quality of life of families and communities, and can make poverty the fate of generations.

Powerlessness can also keep half of the population—the half that is female—at the bottom rung of the social ladder.

This year's Human Development Report puts the situation of women succinctly: "Worse outcomes for women in many aspects of human development result from the fact that their voices have less impact than men's in the decisions that shape their lives."

* * *

A DAY before the launching of the 2002 Human Development Report, parliamentarians from Southeast Asia met for a regional seminar on the theme "Parliament and the Budgetary Process, Including from a Gender Perspective."

Some women thought it was an odd way of putting it, until it was explained that if the seminar had been billed as one on "gender-sensitive budgeting," "very few parliamentarians would be motivated to attend." An activity of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in cooperation with the UNDP and the World Bank, the seminar was meant to highlight the "crucial role" of legislators "in ensuring that government gives priority to those highly vulnerable to dislocation due to economic recession, natural disasters, ethnic conflicts and other causes of social disruption." And with the women among these groups more vulnerable than others, it's clear that lip service about prioritizing women will no longer suffice. "Bottom line, national priorities must be backed not just with words but with money."

As both Speaker Joe de Venecia and Senate President Frank Drilon pointed out in the opening ceremonies, in this the Philippines has led other governments in the region. Through a "Gender and Development" provision in the annual general appropriations act, first included in 1995 and enacted every year since (but not without some debate), the government "backs with resources its policy pronouncements for gender-responsive development."

But how are these resources (5 percent of annual budgets of every government agency and local government unit) identified and utilized?

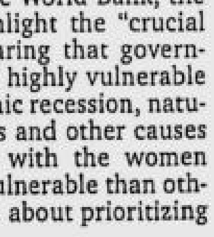
* * *

NOTING how women are largely absent from the world's legislatures, UNDP administrator Mark Malloch Brown, speaking at the IPU seminar opening, remarked that the purpose of such exercises is "to ensure the processes of government and the choices made in policymaking are representative of the half of society that is women."

Brown noted how women are often disadvantaged economically and socially even when they carry a disproportionate part of the burden of supporting and sustaining the family and community. But, said Brown, "with women in decision-making (positions), they will be able to redress these injustices and unleash their full economic and social potential."

The day's papers carried news about the US government's withdrawal of its funding from the UN Population Fund, which UN officials decried as "catastrophic" for women around the world. Alarmed by how "a program critical to the rights of women" could be so easily curtailed, Brown said this was "a devastating example of what happens when women do not have enough power" to influence decision-making at the highest levels of their government. Even in the United States, women remain just as poor and just as powerless as their sisters around the world.

The customs of Tayabas



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

SOME of these customs and traditions have survived the years since Juan Guerra first observed them at the latter part of the 19th century such as the celebration following *binyagan* or baptism. Others of course have long ceased to be observed.

Seven days after giving birth, the mother bathes and gives her child its *unang pagpaligo*. If the child dies after bathing, the body is placed in a tray surrounded by flowers and instead of tears there is a fiesta.

There are also fiestas celebrated not just in homes but in the tribunal. If a *cabeza de barangay* is appointed he does not take his office or his seat in the *principalia* until after the Mass that follows his acceptance. He waits in the sacristy until the first lieutenant fetches him and ushers him to a seat of honor. The first Mass that the *cabeza* hears is the occasion for a fiesta called *labac* while the first meeting presided by the *gobernadorcillo* leads to a *pulong*.

Visits to the barrios by the principal judge gives the name to the *suizan*. Before making these visits, the judge informs the oldest of the *matanda sa nayon* of which each barrio has at least three. The visit itself is announced by the sound of the *tambuli* summoning everyone in the neighborhood. A commission of the *principalias* on horseback goes to fetch the judge. The residents of the barrio await him and once the delegation arrives, they are taken to a house that is appropriately decorated for the occasion. The rest of the household may sleep on the floor, but for the judge a comfortable bed is prepared with care.

The judge, aided by other municipal officials, inquires, inspects and verifies the progress and improvements that have been accomplished during the year. He brings a box containing a statement on the state of the barrio on his last visit, the proclamation that gives him the authority, some whips to punish those who have been remiss in their duties. In these punishments, there is nothing cruel—only a mortification of their pride because their failings are made public.

The inspection of the judge is not limited to the externals. He also inquires about the morals of each individual.

To conclude the official visit, a fiesta of the *suizan* is held.

Tayabas has 52 barrios so that there are as many fiestas.

The *buisan* is similar to the *suizan*, with the difference that the *cabeza* gathers all the tribute payers on a given day for the purpose of making and adjusting a settlement of accounts. The *buisan* results in some expenses for the *cabeza* to finance the fiesta but it also spares him the effort of visiting the tribute payers in their houses.

Each barrio is under the protection of a saint whose feast day is celebrated with a *pintacasi*. Months earlier, chapter meetings are held to decide on the projects and then the preparations get under way. In the tribunal, the prevailing opinions are presented to the *principalia*. The solemn Mass celebrated by three priests, the sermon, the music, the dances and the fireworks are not discussed since these are part of the tradition.

The real battle is waged and the orators get to show off their skills during the discussions on whether there is going to be a *comedia* or not. A *comedia* in Manila lasts for two hours and it can be arranged if there is someone with P10 to bankroll it. The actor has to be simultaneously a comic, a singer and dancer to round out the program. This is easily done in the city but in Tayabas or other provinces, it requires real enterprise.

The *comedia* consists of three nights of magic shows with songs, dances and gymnasts. The magic and turbans are all such a part of the *comedia* that the omission of any of these would produce an earthquake of protests.

There are no theaters in Tayabas and thus one has to be improvised. The machinery, costumes, backdrops and the rest of the props have to be transported from the city, which can be expensive. The actor when traveling on his own is very careful about his expenses for food and drinks and limit his baggage. But when he is traveling to a *pintacasi*, he demands a furnished room, a horse, *merienda*, umbrella in case it rains and a parasol in case it's sunny. The first thing an impresario does is insist in the contract that the actors be fed, wined and dined.

Any convalescence, birthday or celebration is reason enough for a *dadayo ang pacain sa linang* or a good day for eating in the countryside. When they return home after the celebration, young girls adorn themselves with flowers that they pick and combine, throwing the leaves by the roadside.

When Lent approaches the native prepares to stop eating meat with the fiestas of *lapasan* that are always celebrated in the fields. If the sponsors are rich, there is music; if not, there is a guitar, singing and clapping of hands to the beat of the music. In the aristocratic *lapasan*, *habaneras* and *rigodones* are danced and European songs are sung. Foreign wines are drunk. In the traditional *lapasan*, in the pure Tagalog celebration, the *kumintang* is danced, the *cutang-cutang* is sung, *tuba* is drunk, *lechon* eaten and all over the tablecloth are green leaves and instead of tableware the fingers are used. Instead of bread, plates of rice are served.

For all these fiestas a wall of bamboo and foliage is constructed and the whole day is passed in its shade.

Dawson, Ben and Hubble

ONCE or twice in her lifetime, a woman will meet a Dawson, a Ben and a Hubble. These are the men who suddenly take hold of her heart and make her love with reckless abandon. Let me give their profiles.

First, the Dawson. He is the boy a girl knows from childhood. He doesn't have to live in a palatial wooden house by a creek. He doesn't have to be a Steven Spielberg wannabe or wear his heart on his sleeve.

YOUNG BLOOD

Melissa Ann B. Orcine

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

A girl usually becomes aware of Dawson when she is 5 years old. He is a neighbor, a classmate in kindergarten or a playmate residing at the other block of the village. As she and Dawson grow older, they play tag, attend kiddie birthday parties and if they become really that close, they do "sleep-overs" at each other's homes.

But this doesn't mean she and he are the best of friends, because darn it, being kids, they cannot stop teasing each other and beating up each other! The girl gets her long pigtails pulled, and she retaliates with a smack on his face or by pulling his shorts to the ground to reveal his Mickey Mouse underwear. This is not exactly wholesome child's play, but in the end, she and Dawson become the "bestest" friends.

As they progress from physical bouts to good-natured banter, they suddenly notice that they have turned into teenagers. Dawson has hair growing in unusual places, and the girl has grown breasts. At 15, the changes in their bodies make Dawson wonder, "Gee, is it just me or is she hot?" Sexual tension is in the air as the girl has turned into a typical Joey.

Of course, as Joey she is the first to feel love stirring. She thinks he's the ideal guy. She gets jealous when he makes a pass at one of her friends. Familiarity has given Dawson the notion that she can never like him because she considers him a dope. He hurts her really badly by asking someone else to the prom. She is never the first love of Dawson but he is hers.

Eventually Dawson becomes one of her best friends, the kind she doesn't have to call every day to have a connection with. He may have been her boyfriend for a short time, but they never referred to each other as boyfriend or girlfriend, just "special" friend.

Dawson usually never leaves the place where they grew up. She does.

Then, there's the Ben.

Ben is supposed to be the kind that Felicity falls for: a good-looking sunavabitch, a jock who has more girlfriends than he can count and a member of the most popular clique. Ben is the boy every girl in high school falls in love with. And he doesn't know her.

Ben is the most unattainable guy the girl has ever known. She sees him playing as a point guard in basketball games. She shouts herself hoarse cheering for him. But even if Ben becomes a classmate, he sits besides her only during final exams so he can copy her answers. Then after he scores higher in the test, he ignores her when they bump into each other in the corridor. To him, she doesn't exist.

Ben causes infatuation overload, and she starts stalking him. When she discovers that he always sits at this particular table in the cafeteria every day, she makes sure she is there to get a glimpse of him. She asks around for details about his life, his telephone number, his home address and his next of kin in school so that she can get chummy with him and he will say nice things when her name comes up in their conversations.

Then she starts writing "I Love Ben" in her notebook and adding his surname to hers. And no, she won't forget to affix "Mrs." All this because of Ben.

Now here's where real life departs from the TV series. During the first season, Ben thinks Felicity is a psycho, having traveled miles just to follow him to New York. When the second season opens, the tables are turned: Ben realizes its Felicity he wants all along. But this seldom happens in real life.

If after college she still has feelings for Ben, she can make her move. He may either leave town because he thinks she is a psycho or give her a chance. He may be secretly in love with her, but she doesn't know it and he's probably afraid to let her know. Ben may look good on the outside but inside he is a mess.

She certainly has a chance of catching Ben. But pursuing Ben can be heartbreaking.

Finally there is Hubble. He is usually like Ben—only 10 years older.

She may have met him in college or soon afterwards at a friend's wedding or at work. Since she is no longer very young, the sexual tension kicks in automatically. To get over it, she strikes up a conversation about high school. She may go straight to making out in the car.

But unlike Ben, Hubble quickly sees through her. Still he may have feelings for her, and the "relationship" may turn serious with love and marriage coming soon after.

I have named this man Hubble for a reason. Hubble was the character Robert Redford played in the 1973 film "The Way We Were." Redford was paired with Barbra Streisand and, yes, that was where the song "Memories" came from.

Like in the movie, Hubble is the love of her life. But most relationships turn sour and even if they love each other so much they "can't live with or without you" like U2 sang. They either make it by staying together or break it.

The woman who finds her Hubble ends up separated and taking care of their kids alone. Hubble goes off with a younger or more beautiful woman. But his love is alive. It's just that she's too much of an activist.

Oh, if love were just a movie. But then "The Way We Were" shows that not all movies have happy endings. That you can love each other without having to live together. It may sound insane, but it's true.

I may write like someone who has met her Dawson, Ben and Hubble. But I don't have a Dawson and I'm too young to have a Hubble. I'm stalking a Ben right now. I'm not in a position to say that all men fit into these categories. I have known some men and they don't make a perfect fit. Still this is what I know about men and about love. For now.

Later I will learn how a real woman feels about the men in her life. But then I will probably not have the courage to write about them. They would be real men. And their names won't be Dawson, Ben or Hubble.

Melissa Ann B. Orcine, 22, works as a copywriter in an advertising agency.

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Give the President a break

DEMOCRACY is a term that is often used carelessly but never fully understood by Filipinos. A lot of us associate democracy and freedom with staging revolutions and going against the government. But what about the responsibility that comes with democracy and freedom? That seems to have been sacrificed for the sake of upholding the only facet we associate with democracy: people empowerment. Power does not rest on only one person and people have the liberty to choose their leaders. They exercise democracy by being vocal about their discontent with the government, but responsibility in handling it is sacrificed, and that doesn't work for the betterment of society. Social order is sacrificed in the people's exercise of their own concept of democracy and freedom.

The problem is that we are almost always against the government. For instance, we see the Council for Philippine Affairs barely hiding its desire to oust the President. Filipinos have abused the principle of People Power 1, 2 and even 3, and think this is the solution for every social and political problem. So many leftist groups have popped up, criticizing every move the administration makes. But they have never really given concrete proposals to change the system. We are always thinking about how politicians abuse their power, but never about how we ourselves abuse the democracy and freedom we have.

To make matters worse, politicians point their fingers at each other whenever something goes wrong. Just recently, Sen. Edgardo Angara delivered his own version of the State of the Nation Address, where he stressed how the Macapagal administration has failed and how, instead of helping the country, the President has brought us down some more. He said that he and his colleagues in the opposition cannot help the administration because they do not want to help a President who refuses to help herself.

But it is not the President who needs help but the Filipinos. Our problems never get solved because politicians are busy blaming one another, grabbing power and amassing wealth instead of solving our country's problems.

Are we then hopeless as a nation? On the contrary, we believe there is something we can do. We must heed the Church's advice and let President Macapagal finish her term without too many political squabbles so that she can focus on solving our nation's problems, particularly in the field of economics. This is not the time to go looking for a new administration; we are barely recovering from the trauma of ousting a President.

Let us give President Macapagal a break. If we want solutions, let's help her and let us not block her efforts or seek to replace her. This is the time for the people and the government to help each other, and for politicians and citizens to do the same. We are, after all, the ones who put these officials in office. We are accountable for the choices we made in past electoral exercises as well as for staging Edsa 2 to bring in a new administration. The best solution is not to change the incumbent administration but to choose our leaders more wisely in the next elections.

—MA. KATRINA C. REYNA,
MICHAEL ANGELO P. PEDREÑO,
ARA REGINA D. PASCUAL,
JOYCELYNN HANNAH T. PINEDA,
JOANNE MAE P. MERCADO,
FRANCININA GRACIA I. RIVERA,
Ateneo de Manila University,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

LETTERS

Lots of room for cost-cutting in gov't

THE PLAN of the House committee on accounts, headed by Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, to reduce the 14 deputy secretary general positions to two or the "barest minimum" means that Congress can do away with unnecessary expenses, thus saving billions in taxpayers' money.

And with this mind-set, Congress can also enact a law prohibiting elective and appointive government officials from using luxury vehicles, and limiting vehicle purchases to the lowest-priced car models, such as the Kia Pride. This law will not only save the people billions of pesos annually but also restore their respect for politicians as truly honorable persons.

When this happens, the Philippines will surely be the only Third World country whose leaders deserve concrete monuments in every town plaza, beside that of Rizal.

—T. B. ABAYAN, 13-A Banning St.,
North Fairview,
Quezon City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Call centers create jobs

MORE call centers are being set up in the country through the Department of Trade and Industry's efforts to draw investments here. The Philippines is fast becoming a call center haven in Asia, and this will create good investments and more jobs for our jobless graduates.

The DTI reported that investments made during the first four months this year have reached more than P1.7 billion and these are projected to generate 9,856 jobs.

Whether long-term or short-term, call centers are one of the answers to our employment crisis.

We are surprised that Chito Salazar of STI would ask Trade Secretary Mar Roxas to explain why he is concentrating on the call center business. He pointed out that call centers are not a long-term business but only seasonal.

For sure, graduates of STI will join the bandwagon of job applicants at these call centers that the DTI invited to invest here. For the sake of STI, I hope they get the job.

—LAILA MARASIGAN,
6 16th Ave.,
Cubao, Quezon City

Ricciardone deserves our thanks

UNITED States Ambassador Francis Ricciardone did the Filipino people a great service by speaking out on corruption inside and outside of the judiciary.

The prevalence of corruption in our judicial system is not something new. It has been with us for some time, but it grew exponentially during the Marcos years. Today we are still struggling with this infamous legacy of one of our most brilliant lawyers.

It took the US ambassador to stir the proverbial hornet's nest, for who would listen to a Juan de la Cruz when he complains about corruption?

Congressmen are outraged, and even Marcos' former labor secretary, Sen. Blas Ople, wanted Ricciardone declared persona non grata. For what? For telling the truth? For speaking out for the masses whose representatives and senators have failed them when they didn't stop corruption all these years?

Instead of condemning the statements of Ricciardone, we should thank him for his courage, and our lawmakers and politicians should also have the courage to accept this truth and do something about it.

—ANTONIO C. PASTELERO, E-1503B
PSE Centre, Exchange
Road, Pasig City

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Israel sends tanks into Gaza

GAZA—Israeli forces pushed into Gaza City on Friday, blowing up three buildings housing workshops where rockets were allegedly being made, the Israeli army said.

Palestinian security officials said four Palestinians were wounded in the first Israeli incursion since an air strike on Tuesday in Gaza City killed 15 Palestinians, including Hamas military commander Salah Shehada and nine children.

Palestinian gunmen on Thursday shot dead a rabbi from a Jewish settlement in the West Bank in the first response by militants to the air raid that drew international condemnation and touched off a debate in Israel itself.

In New York, Arab delegates put off introducing a UN Security Council resolution on Tuesday's bombing in a teeming Gaza City neighborhood, with diplomats saying there were divisions among ambassadors over the text.

Commenting on the ground assault, the army said: "During the night in south Gaza City, an Israeli military force discovered three buildings that were used as Qassam rocket factories. The three buildings housed 22 rocket-manufacturing workshops.

"Israeli soldiers exploded the workshops in a controlled manner. When finished, the forces left the Palestinian-controlled area," it said.

Three thunderous explosions shook Gaza before Israeli tanks rumbled back to Israeli-occupied territory about three km away.

The army statement said dozens of mortar bombs and Qassam rocket—short-range weapons improvised by Palestinians—had been fired at Israeli military posts and communities inside and outside the Gaza Strip in the past few days. There have been no casualties.

Two groups claimed responsibility for Thursday's killing of Rabbi Elimelech Shapira, 43, and wounding another man in an ambush as they drove along a road near a Jewish settlement close to the West Bank city of Qalqilya.

"The operation is part of the armed struggle and in response to the assassination of our people in Gaza and Salah Shehada," the Popular Army Front-Return Battalions, a coalition of militant groups, said in a statement.

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed group which is part of the coalition and is linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, also took responsibility for the ambush.

The Islamic organization Hamas has vowed to kill hundreds of Israelis to avenge Tuesday's attack by an F-16 fighter-bomber which fired a one-ton guided missile at Shehada's house.

Israel said Shehada had the blood of 200 Israelis on his hands and was planning a "mega-terror" attack.

In New York, Nasser al-Kidwa, the Palestinian UN observer, said Arab ambassadors would meet again on Friday and then seek reactions among council members.

Reuters

POPE PILGRIM AP

Carmen Perez of Mexico, in ceremonial costume, celebrates at Pope John Paul II's welcoming ceremony as part of World Youth Day festivities at Exhibition Place in Toronto, Ontario, July 25.

'Authorized' Pakistan gang rape men on trial

MULTAN, Pakistan—In a case of shocking brutality that sparked outrage in Pakistan, four men go on trial on Friday charged with a gang rape authorized as punishment by a traditional village jury.

The defendants could face the death penalty if convicted of a crime similar to frequent abuses in southern Punjab, a region little touched by central authority and where centuries-old concepts of honor and revenge are paramount.

Mukhtaran Mai, a 30-year-old divorcee, says she was repeatedly raped last month after approaching the tribal council in Meerwala to settle a dispute between two families at the opposite ends of the village's social scale.

Panchayats

The juries, called Panchayats, are often convened in rural areas to settle local disputes.

Mai, from the poorer Gujar family, pleaded with the men of the more powerful Mastoi clan to free her brother, kidnapped after allegedly having an illicit affair with a Mastoi woman.

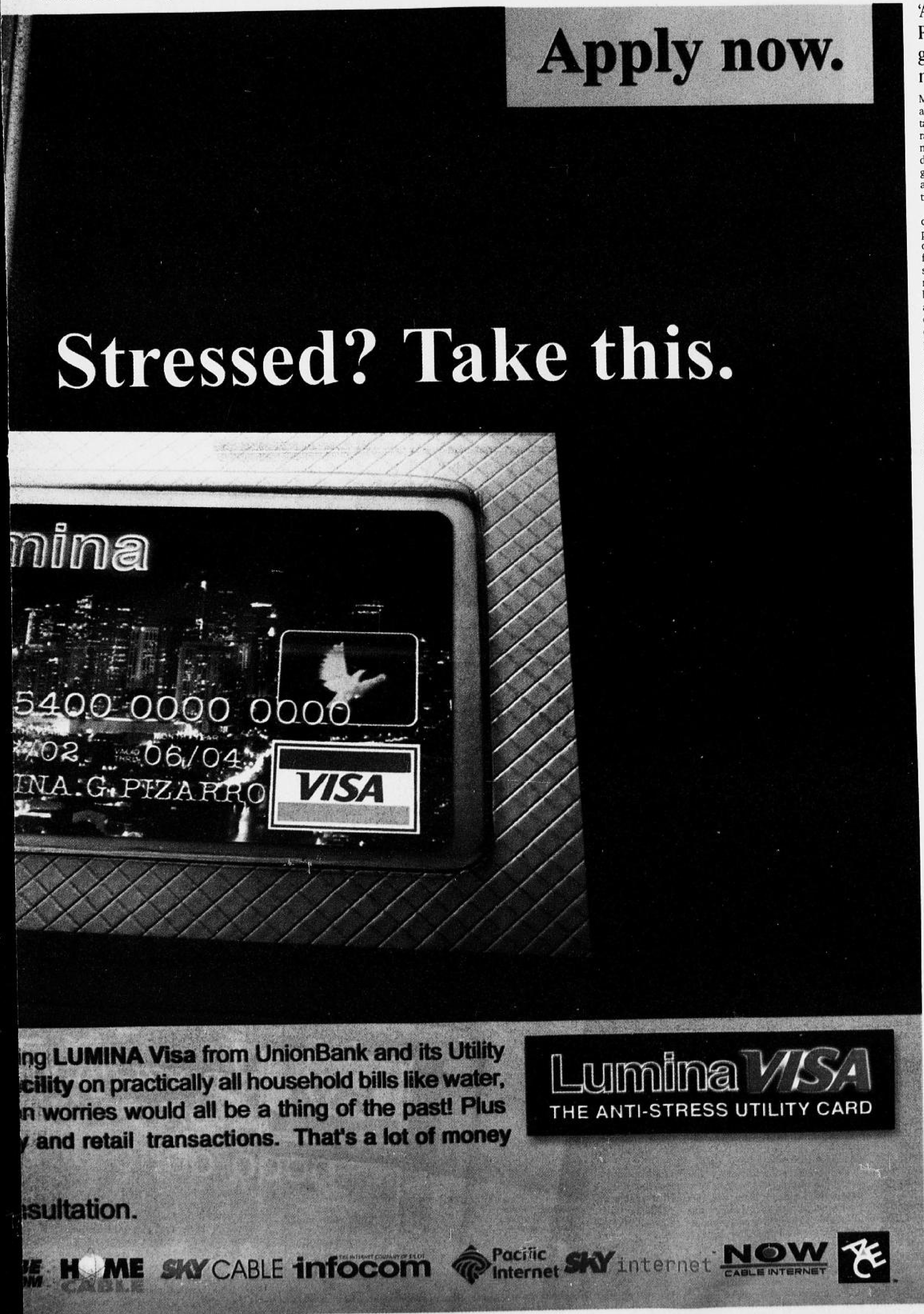
Abdul Shakur, said to be in his early teens, denied the charge, but that did not prevent three Mastoi men, none of them involved in the current trial, allegedly sodomizing him.

To save the honor of the Mastoi clan, Shakur was expected to wed the Mastoi woman with whom he was linked while Mai was to be given away in marriage to a Mastoi man.

Mai begged the council for mercy, but instead ended up meeting the full force of Mastoi revenge—four men raped her and made her walk home semi-naked in front of hundreds of people, according to the prosecution.

"This incident was shocking for people in general," said the government's prosecutor in the case, Ramzan Khalid Joiya, in his offices in the Punjab town of Multan. The trial is being held in Dera Ghazi Khan two hours' drive to the west.

"This kind of violation of women is very common, but every time it is highlighted, the practice stops at least for a while, which is better than nothing," he said. *Reuters*



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US Congress passes corporate reform bill

WASHINGTON—Seeking to reassure investors of their commitment to corporate reform, the US Congress on Thursday resoundingly passed a bill to increase accountability among executives of publicly-held companies.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which emerged after nearly a week in conference, was passed 423-3 in the House and 99-0 in the Senate.

Once it is signed by US President George W. Bush, it will tighten oversight of auditors, stiffen penalties for errant executives and require greater accountability for financial statements from top corporate officers.

The legislation comes in response to the raft of revelations of questionable accounting practices at publicly-held companies that has helped to bleed more than seven trillion dollars from the US markets since March 2000.

Investor confidence was badly wounded in December, when energy trader Enron filed for bankruptcy. Since then, a string of admissions by some of the country's top companies that all was not right with their balance sheets—including Global Crossing, WorldCom and, according to a new SEC probe, possibly media giant AOL Time Warner—has rocked the already-fragile markets.

Arrests of the top executives at cable operator Adelphia on charges of fraud, and accusations leveled against both Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney for questionable accounting at companies they were both executives before taking office have also done little to assuage concerns.

"This legislation, combined with substantive and far-reaching reforms underway throughout our free markets, will help to restore faith in the system," vowed Republican Representative Michael Oxley.

"A strong dose of character, honesty, and ethics in corporate America wouldn't hurt."

The markets seemed to agree Wednesday, as the blue chip Dow Jones index soared 480 points for its strongest rally in 15 years. The giddiness was tempered somewhat Thursday, as the Dow posted a modest 4.92-point loss to 8,186.37 and the tech-heavy Nasdaq slid 50.09 points to 1,240.14 at the closing bell.

The new legislation establishes an independent board to set standards and discipline auditors of public companies, to be overseen by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Non-audit services that accountants may offer their audit clients will be narrowed in scope, and corporate executives will be required to accept responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of their companies' financial reports.

The bill also requires real-time corporate disclosure of anything that can impact a company's financial health and requires corporations to contribute to accounts that will return funds to investors who have lost money in the markets as a result of corporate wrongdoing.

Stiffer criminal penalties—up to 20 years in prison—for corporate executives convicted of wrongdoing, were also included in the bill.

"Today's passage by Congress of corporate accounting reforms is a victory for America's shareholders and employees," Bush said in a statement Thursday. "I look forward to signing these important reforms into law." *AFP*

POWELL

Powell dismisses speculations he'll resign

WASHINGTON—An irritated US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Thursday dismissed persistent speculation that he will resign over differences with conservatives in President George W. Bush's administration.

Powell also said he stood behind a decision to cut millions of dollars in US funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) that had been the cause of the latest resignation rumors.

"No," he told reporters when asked if he was considering resigning.

"You all insist on writing this story every two weeks," Powell said when asked about a New York Times story that said the secretary, despite being "embattled" and "scrutinized" would remain in his post.

It said that despite swirling rumors of his resignation, Powell, a retired general and chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, would "soldier on" as secretary of state.

"For all the resignation stories, I can go back and do (an Internet search) and you've been doing them every two weeks since I came in here last year," he said.

"And I'm sure you'll continue to do them," Powell said, quipping: "It's great reading." The Times story said the UNFPA decision was the latest in a series of foreign policy battles that Powell, a social liberal considered to be the most moderate of Bush's top aides, had lost to conservatives.

Powell said that he had made the decision to cut funding to the UNFPA, an agency that he told lawmakers last year did "invaluable work," because it was inconsistent with legislation that bars US funding for projects involving coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.

"I signed the certificate on the UNFPA earlier this week," Powell said, emphasizing the word "I." *AFP*

N. Korea 'regrets' sea attack

SEOUL—North Korea's message of regret for a deadly sea attack and offer to restart talks with the South drew mixed reviews in South Korea on Friday, reflecting sharp divisions in Seoul and deep mistrust of the communist North.

Sceptics said the North Korean cabinet's expression of regret was half-hearted and did not come from the more powerful North Korean military, which Seoul says planned the June 29 naval clash that killed five South Korean sailors and injured 19.

Voices more sympathetic to North Korea saw good news in what South Korea's government called a "de facto apology" and urged Seoul to seize upon Pyongyang's offer to restart talks.

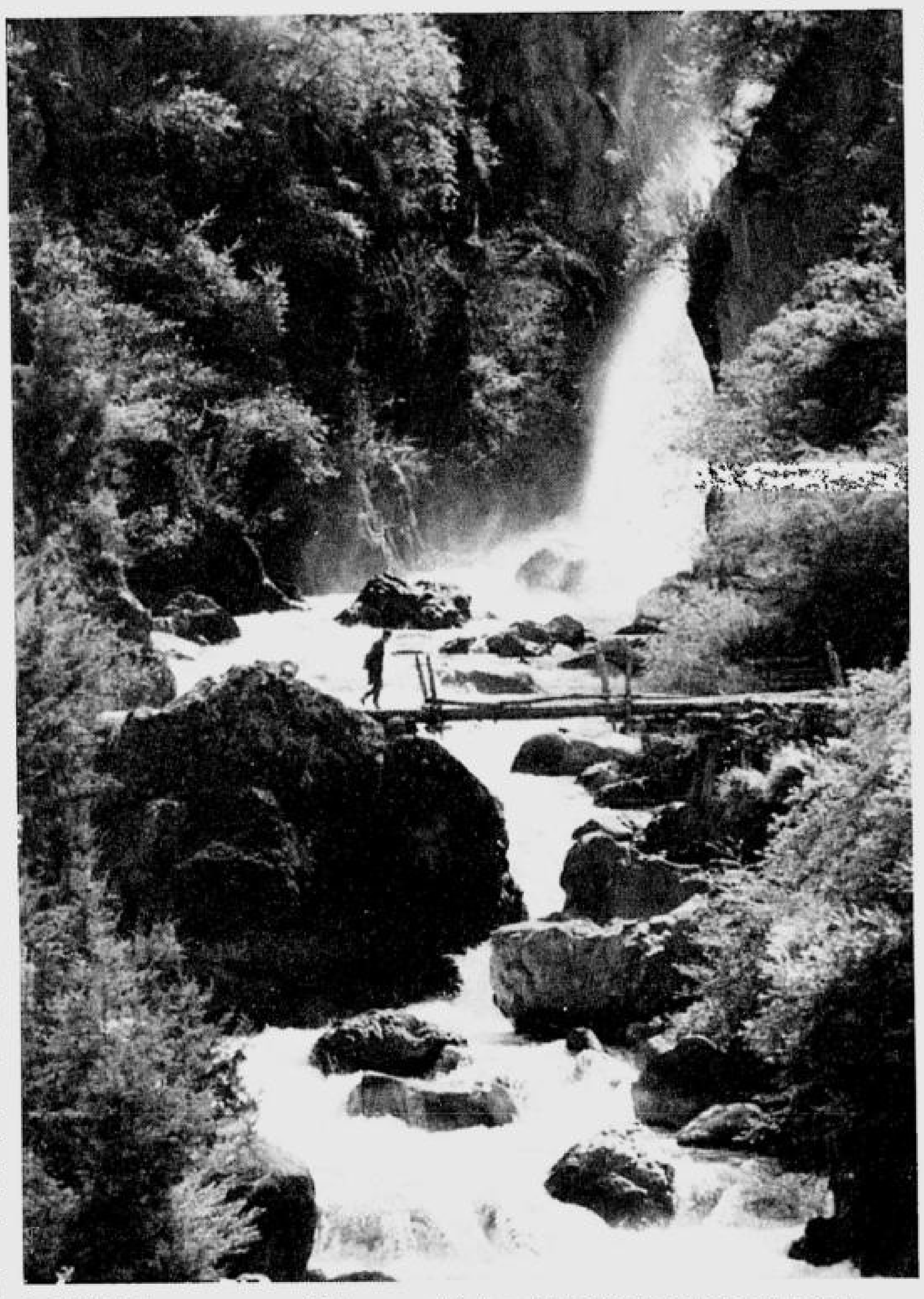
As sudden as the North Korean naval attack nearly a month ago, Pyongyang cabinet official Kim Ryong-song sent a telephone message on Thursday to South Korean Unification Minister Jeong Se-hyun expressing regret and offering talks.

"Feeling regretful for the unforeseen armed clash that occurred in the west sea recently, we are of the view that both sides should make joint efforts to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents in future," the message said.

Seoul had demanded an apology, the punishment of those responsible and steps to prevent a repeat of the clash, which the South's defence ministry said was a premeditated attack by the North.

South Korea convened a special vice-ministerial meeting to prepare a response to North Korea's call for talks early next month, but critics said the matter of the sea battle was far from settled. *Reuters*

China 'discovers' Shangri-La for tourists



A CHINESE farmer crosses a bridge over a tributary of the Mekong River near Deqin, in northwestern Yunnan province, near the Tibetan border in China in this April 21, 1998 file photo. Three regions of southwestern China that have vied to claim the mythical mountain wonderland of Shangri-La have decided to stop fighting and work together for a common goal—bringing in tourism dollars. AP

BEIJING—Finally, it's been located: The mythical, long-sought valley of Shangri-La is . . . exactly where the Chinese government has decided a profitable vacation and ecotourism resort destination can best be built.

For years, sundry municipalities in a rugged, underdeveloped region of southwestern China have vied to claim the legendary Himalayan wonderland of Shangri-La as their own. Now they've decided to stop squabbling and work together—to bring in tourism dollars.

Tibet and two provinces, Sichuan and Yunnan, have endorsed a plan to mark off a 50-county swath of terrain at the foot of the towering Meili Snow Mountain that straddles the regions. It will be re-christened Shangri-La—or, more specifically, "The China Shangri-La Ecological Tourist Zone."

The area's regional governments—Yunnan's Diqing Tibetan Prefecture, Sichuan's Qamdo Prefecture and Tibet's Nyingchi County and Ganzi Prefecture—decided Wednesday to jointly invest $9.6 billion over eight years to develop the place.

They're hoping the allure of a fanciful, fictional past could mean a better economic future.

Some money would come from the central government and regional governments, officials said. Sichuan plans to invest $616 million, though exact development plans were unclear.

Shangri-La, supposedly a long-forgotten Tibetan word for paradise, became legendary after British writer James Hilton's 1933 novel "Lost Horizon" portrayed it as a Himalayan kingdom where youth is preserved and dreams are fulfilled.

A popular 1937 Frank Capra movie sealed its spot in American culture, and today the Internet's Google search engine produces 169,000 citations for "Shangri-La" from Asia to West Africa and even the Caribbean—including the best-known modern incarnation, an Asian luxury hotel chain of the same name.

The myth, as deployed in recent years, is already helping. Some 1.2 million Chinese and foreign tourists visited the region last year and added $106 million to the economy, the tourism organization said.

One who never visited, though, was Hilton, and no evidence exists that there ever was a genuine Shangri-La. Still, that has neither stopped places from trying nor prevented the government from pushing the myth for foreign—and, of late, domestic—tourist consumption. *AP*

Forced union of 8 girls draws outrage

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Four men convicted of murder agreed to marry eight young female relatives to the men of the victims' family to settle the blood debt—a deal not uncommon in poor areas of central Pakistan, where traditional law still rules.

But national outrage over the number and ages of the girls—including one as young as 5—being offered to men old enough to be their great-grandfathers, forced the families to cancel the arrangement this week. And now, the four men again face execution.

"It is quite common in the area to marry daughters to the family of someone you wrong. But usually the ages of the girl and the man are taken into consideration," said Mohammed Asad Malik, son of a former governor of Punjab province, where their village, Musakhen, is located.

The four men, who came from the same family, were convicted and sentenced to hang for the 1988 murder of two men from another family in Musakhen, 225 km southwest of Islamabad. Both families share the same last name, Khan.

Under the deal, reached Tuesday, the girls were offered in exchange for an agreement to release their male relatives. While the death sentences were handed down by a Pakistani court, the country's Islamic law stipulates the victim's family can ask for clemency. *AP*

British colony Gibraltar sets referendum on sovereignty

GIBRALTAR—Gibraltar Thursday threw down the gauntlet to Britain by calling an October referendum on sovereignty of the British colony, saying the future of the peninsula was "not negotiable" without consulting the people.

But Britain immediately rejected the plan by Gibraltar Chief Minister Peter Caruana, calling it a "short circuit" for democracy.

Spain, which is discussing shared sovereignty with London over the tiny territory off its southern coast, said any referendum would have to be approved by Britain.

Caruana said the referendum was necessary so that "people can make their views absolutely clear" on the peninsula, which was ceded to Britain in perpetuity in 1713.

In response the British Foreign Office said they would not recognize a referendum that was called just to reject British policy "without any thought, discussion, or time for proper debate." "That would short-circuit democracy and short-change the people of Gibraltar," their press statement said.

Britain has always promised that any agreement to resolve almost 300 years of wrangling over the Mediterranean outcrop will be subject to a referendum of its people.

But Gibraltarians fear that they will be presented with a "done deal" and put under pressure from Britain, Spain and the international community to accept it.

In a statement to parliament on July 12, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said that while no deal had been done with Spain, broad agreement had been reached on "the principle that Britain and Spain should share sovereignty over Gibraltar." It was the first official confirmation that Britain was ready to give up sole control over the "Rock" and sparked fury in the colony, where previous polls have shown only a handful of the 30,000 residents were prepared to consider joining Spain.

International observers will supervise the referendum, which will likely be held in October, Caruana said.

"The sovereignty of Gibraltar is not negotiable against the wishes of the people of Gibraltar and without our consent," Caruana said.

"There will be no political hiding place for those who would trample on our democratic right as a people to decide our own future, free of harassment, threats and duress and in accordance with our right to self-determination," he added.

He felt that the position of Britain, which has been negotiating with Spain for the past year over Gibraltar, "has legitimized in the eyes of the international community Spain's anachronistic and democratically indefensible sovereignty claim." He said he had prepared a six-point plan which included a request for Caruana to meet British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and also to set up organizations to support Gibraltar throughout the European Union.

In a first reaction Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio said in Madrid that any referendum must be officially approved by Britain to be valid.

Palacio said that a referendum, under any circumstances, "does not concern Spain" but Britain. *AFP*

Poisonous predator found in Central Park

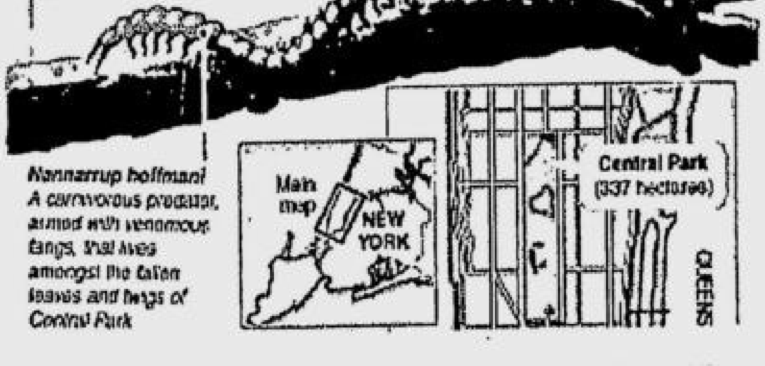
NEW YORK—A new species of poisonous predator—a tiny centipede that may well be the world's smallest—has been discovered in Central Park, the heart of the nation's largest city, scientists said on Wednesday.

It is the first new species in more than a century to be discovered in the massive park, a New York City oasis that attracts more than 20 million visitors each year.

Like all centipedes, it is a carnivorous predator armed with venomous fangs, but the adult of the new species grows to be about 0.4 inches (10 mm) long, about half the usual length of centipedes.

The Central Park centipede, which lives in the leaves and sticks littering the park, is so unusual that scientists have classified it as the only species in a completely new genus. A species distinguishes a particular type of organism within a broad group, or genus, of organisms that are are similar and closely related.

"It's an exciting thing. It's always a celebration when you find a new creature on the Earth. It's pretty interesting finding it in our own backyard," said Michael Novacek, senior vice president and provost of science at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. *Reuters*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MADE IN USA
Artist's impression
Nannarrup hoffmani
A carnivorous predator, armed with venomous fangs, that lives amongst the fallen leaves and twigs of Central Park
Main map
NEW YORK
Central Park
(337 hectares)
QUEENS

DRAWING of a new species of centipede, thought to be the world's smallest, discovered in New York's Central Park. REUTERS

Police camp may have been used to train terrorists

WASHINGTON—An Alabama urban warfare training camp primarily used by law enforcement authorities may also have been used to help Islamic militants prepare for terror attacks, ABC News reported on Thursday.

But the network's report on its "World News Tonight" program said authorities did not know whether the British, privately-owned camp was used by the al-Qaida network headed by Osama bin Laden, who is blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

US and British law enforcement authorities do not know how many militant recruits may have come through the "Ground Zero USA" camp, which displays bullet-riddled police cars and a school bus with mannequin targets, the network said. *Reuters*

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Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/27/02

ROUNDUP

Marijuana uprooted

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Authorities led by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation uprooted some 30,000 fully-grown marijuana plants worth P60 million in the boundaries of Sarangani and Davao del Sur on Tuesday. NBI Socsargen reported that the raiding team had to request helicopters from the Philippine Air Force to penetrate the six-hectare marijuana plantation in the remote villages of Bolol Salo and Bual, Malungon in Sarangani and Kiblawan in Davao del Sur. However, Regner Peneza, an NBI agent, told reporters that none of the cultivators were arrested because they fled before the raiding team arrived. Peneza said the haul was the biggest in years.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Special village elections

MALOLOS, Bulacan—The Commission on Elections will hold special barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in four barangays in Calumpit town on July 28. Registered voters in Barangays Meysulao, San Jose, Calizon and Frances failed to vote on July 15 due to floods triggered by Typhoon Gloria and monsoon rains.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Relief goods

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Employees and stakeholders of the National Food Authority in western Pangasinan distributed relief goods to 500 indigent families here who were affected by floods. Chona Maramba of the NFA said the employees contributed money to buy rice, sardines, noodles and coffee. She said the NFA stakeholders such as the Grains Retailers Association, Millers Association, Farmers Action Council and the Gloria Rolling Stores Association also helped in the relief operation.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Boac battle remembered

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute, the governments of Marinduque and Boac and the Boac Historical Society (BHS) will spearhead various activities commemorating the 102nd anniversary of the Battle of Paye in Boac, Marinduque on July 30-31. The commemorative activities include the unveiling of the historical marker "Museo at Aklatang Boac," lecture-forum; and historical quiz on July 30 at the Boac Covered Court at 8 a.m., 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and commemorative rites on July 31, 8 a.m. at the battle site in Sitio Paye, Barangay Balimbing, Boac.

Reforested lands

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has reforested some 14,389 hectares of barren lands in the Bicol Region. Oscar Hamada, DENR Bicol regional director, said these areas are located in 87 sites targeted by the Integrated Social Forestry (ISF) project where slash-and-burn farming is most rampant. Hamada said that since the ISF project was started in 1989, it has minimized forest destruction and gave livelihood to forest occupants and harnessed them for reforestation.

Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Proper nutrition stressed

LEGAZPI CITY—Close to 1,000 schoolchildren at the Pili West Central Elementary School here participated in Nutrition Day activities sponsored recently by the Department of Agriculture. Part of the day-long activities was a nutrition seminar stressing the benefits of proper nutrition. Fe Laysa, DA Bicol executive director, encouraged the pupils to eat a variety of foods to ensure adequate intake of nutrients from vegetables, fruits and root crops. Other activities included a nutri-quiz, poster-making contest, planting of pili trees and feeding.

Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

New buildings

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Public Works and Highways said it has built 29 more school buildings in the Bicol Region. Orlando Roces, acting DPWH Bicol director, said the construction of these school buildings was completed ahead of schedule. He said President Macapagal-Arroyo promised the project to Bicolanos as part of her commitment to building school buildings in 1,600 villages across the country that have no such facilities yet.

Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dredging not part of task of Mt. Pinatubo agencies

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Desilting and dredging projects that ate up P563 million in recovered funds were not among the final tasks of two bodies formed to complete the work of the now defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission, two presidential orders, congressional documents and interviews showed.

Proclamation 1201, which organized the MPC task force, and Executive Order 6, which created the Pinatubo Project Management Office (PPMO) under the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, did not cite these controversial projects as priorities.

Speaking before the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) on Mt. Pinatubo on July 12, 1999 to seek P800 million in funding, the late MPC Executive Director Artaserxes Sampang said the commission needed that amount to carry out two main thrusts spelled out by the proclamation.

"These tasks are mostly focused on the resettlement of the remaining victims displaced by the Pinatubo calamity and to upgrade and stabilize the living conditions of some 240,000 victims who have already been relocated to 23 resettlement sites in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales," he told the JCOC.

To do these, Sampang cited three "prioritized activities."

These involved the provision of housing with basic utilities and amenities to 6,000 displaced families living in evacuation centers and off-site facilities, and the completion and operation of utilities such as water and power distribution systems and residual work and the supporting infrastructure for 48,000 families in existing resettlement communities. Sampang said these included the "alleviation of poverty in communities through people empowerment and the development of resettlement-based livelihood opportunities."

The validation of legitimate settlers, titling of house and lots and the transfer of titles were also among the important tasks, he said.

Executive Order 6, which President Macapagal-Arroyo signed last year, did not depart from these thrusts, a copy of the order showed.

The PPMO, according to the order, shall deal with the pending critical concerns of the resettlement areas and ensure continued supervision of the program.

In JCOC meetings held on June 11 and July 12, 1999, minutes showed that the commission did not cite dredging and desilting projects as priorities.

In those meetings, Sampang aired the need for money for the unfinished tasks.

Japanese held for using, possessing fake travelers' checks

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—A Japanese has been detained to face charges for allegedly encashing a fake traveler's check in a resort in Panglao town, Bohol.

Masakazo Matsuo, 53, of Niigata, Japan, is facing charges of illegal possession and use of false treasury or bank notes and other instruments of credit.

The case against Matsuo was filed before the 14th Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Dauis-Panglao.

Matsuo is now detained at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology jail in Tagbilaran.

Senior Insp. Magdaleno Mendez, Bohol police operations officer, said a separate case was also being prepared against the Japanese for four fake bank checks, which were found in the taxi used by the accused.

Josephine Naval, money exchanger of the Sunshine Travel and Tours, complained that the Japanese allegedly encashed a fake traveler's check to her on July 5.

Naval alleged that Matsuo exchanged a 2952500 Wells Fargo visa traveler's check with serial no. 115 1200 014 371, equivalent to P24,350.

Naval found the traveler's check was fake a few hours after the suspect had left.

Three policemen led by SPO4 Demetrio Saraspe arrested the Japanese.

Matsuo claimed that he brought the check from Japan but failed to present any receipt.

Matsuo changed his statement and said the check came from one Mario Sitoy whom he described as his close friend from Cebu City.

Saraspe and his team were able to trace the taxi taken by Matsuo.

The team found a blue plastic check containing four more Wells Fargo traveler's checks under a seat in the taxi driven by Antedio Balicog.

The checks had serial numbers 115 1200 014 369; 115 1200 014 370; 115 1200 014 372 and 115 1200 014 373.

DENR exec backs mining firm

LUPON, Davao Oriental—A ranking environment officer here has taken up the cudgels for a mining company accused of causing ecological destruction in the town.

Gilbert Pajo, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said there was no truth to allegations that Vineyard Mining Co. was causing pollution.

"It is not true that Vineyard had caused massive ecological destruction in their place. The mining firm has not even started operating yet," Pajo said.

Earlier, residents of Barangays Calapagan, Don Mariano Marcos and Marayag alleged that Vineyard was polluting their waterways. During a rally at the provincial capitol in Mati town, the residents threatened to confiscate and burn equipment owned by the company unless it packs up and leave.

But Pajo said Vineyard's activities were confined to exploration.

"Metallurgical test is basically not ecologically destructive," he said.

Pajo laid the blame on small-scale miners "because of their irresponsible mining practices."

"Two Cebu City-based businessmen are applying to operate small-scale mining in the area. But we found that these traders have started operating even without a mining permit. Vineyard's name was dragged into the controversy because the traders were formerly connected with the company," said Pajo.

Pajo said he was willing to shut down mining operations in the hinterlands should there be a need to do so. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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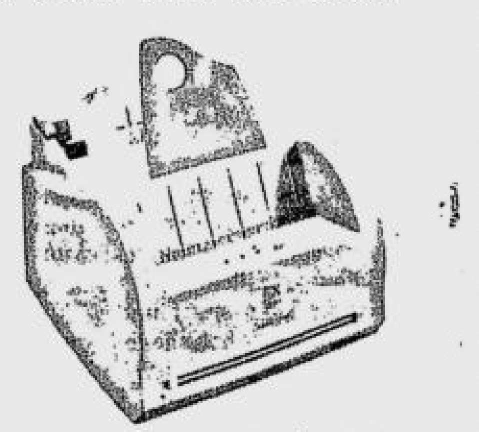

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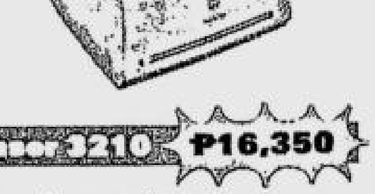

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ROUNDUP

Marijuana uprooted

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Authorities led by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation uprooted some 30,000 fully-grown marijuana plants worth P60 million in the boundaries of Sarangani and Davao del Sur on Tuesday. NBI Socsargen reported that the raiding team had to request helicopters from the Philippine Air Force to penetrate the six-hectare marijuana plantation in the remote villages of Bolol Salo and Bual, Malungon in Sarangani and Kiblawan in Davao del Sur. However, Regner Peneza, an NBI agent, told reporters that none of the cultivators were arrested because they fled before the raiding team arrived. Peneza said the haul was the biggest in years.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Special village elections

MALOLOS, Bulacan—The Commission on Elections will hold special barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in four barangays in Calumpit town on July 28. Registered voters in Barangays Meysulao, San Jose, Calizon and Frances failed to vote on July 15 due to floods triggered by Typhoon Gloria and monsoon rains.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Relief goods

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Employees and stakeholders of the National Food Authority in western Pangasinan distributed relief goods to 500 indigent families here who were affected by floods. Chona Maramba of the NFA said the employees contributed money to buy rice, sardines, noodles and coffee. She said the NFA stakeholders such as the Grains Retailers Association, Millers Association, Farmers Action Council and the Gloria Rolling Stores Association also helped in the relief operation.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Boac battle remembered

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute, the governments of Marinduque and Boac and the Boac Historical Society (BHS) will spearhead various activities commemorating the 102nd anniversary of the Battle of Paye in Boac, Marinduque on July 30-31. The commemorative activities include the unveiling of the historical marker "Museo at Aklatang Boac," lecture-forum; and historical quiz on July 30 at the Boac Covered Court at 8 a.m., 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and commemorative rites on July 31, 8 a.m. at the battle site in Sitio Paye, Barangay Balimbing, Boac.

Reforested lands

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has reforested some 14,389 hectares of barren lands in the Bicol Region. Oscar Hamada, DENR Bicol regional director, said these areas are located in 87 sites targeted by the Integrated Social Forestry (ISF) project where slash-and-burn farming is most rampant. Hamada said that since the ISF project was started in 1989, it has minimized forest destruction and gave livelihood to forest occupants and harnessed them for reforestation.

Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Proper nutrition stressed

LEGAZPI CITY—Close to 1,000 schoolchildren at the Pili West Central Elementary School here participated in Nutrition Day activities sponsored recently by the Department of Agriculture. Part of the day-long activities was a nutrition seminar stressing the benefits of proper nutrition. Fe Laysa, DA Bicol executive director, encouraged the pupils to eat a variety of foods to ensure adequate intake of nutrients from vegetables, fruits and root crops. Other activities included a nutri-quiz, poster-making contest, planting of pili trees and feeding.

Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

New buildings

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Public Works and Highways said it has built 29 more school buildings in the Bicol Region. Orlando Roces, acting DPWH Bicol director, said the construction of these school buildings was completed ahead of schedule. He said President Macapagal-Arroyo promised the project to Bicolanos as part of her commitment to building school buildings in 1,600 villages across the country that have no such facilities yet.

Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dredging not part of task of Mt. Pinatubo agencies

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Desilting and dredging projects that ate up P563 million in recovered funds were not among the final tasks of two bodies formed to complete the work of the now defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission, two presidential orders, congressional documents and interviews showed.

Proclamation 1201, which organized the MPC task force, and Executive Order 6, which created the Pinatubo Project Management Office (PPMO) under the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, did not cite these controversial projects as priorities.

Speaking before the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) on Mt. Pinatubo on July 12, 1999 to seek P800 million in funding, the late MPC Executive Director Artaserxes Sampang said the commission needed that amount to carry out two main thrusts spelled out by the proclamation.

"These tasks are mostly focused on the resettlement of the remaining victims displaced by the Pinatubo calamity and to upgrade and stabilize the living conditions of some 240,000 victims who have already been relocated to 23 resettlement sites in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales," he told the JCOC.

To do these, Sampang cited three "prioritized activities."

These involved the provision of housing with basic utilities and amenities to 6,000 displaced families living in evacuation centers and off-site facilities, and the completion and operation of utilities such as water and power distribution systems and residual work and the supporting infrastructure for 48,000 families in existing resettlement communities. Sampang said these included the "alleviation of poverty in communities through people empowerment and the development of resettlement-based livelihood opportunities."

The validation of legitimate settlers, titling of house and lots and the transfer of titles were also among the important tasks, he said.

Executive Order 6, which President Macapagal-Arroyo signed last year, did not depart from these thrusts, a copy of the order showed.

The PPMO, according to the order, shall deal with the pending critical concerns of the resettlement areas and ensure continued supervision of the program.

In JCOC meetings held on June 11 and July 12, 1999, minutes showed that the commission did not cite dredging and desilting projects as priorities.

In those meetings, Sampang aired the need for money for the unfinished tasks.

Japanese held for using, possessing fake travelers' checks

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—A Japanese has been detained to face charges for allegedly encashing a fake traveler's check in a resort in Panglao town, Bohol.

Masakazo Matsuo, 53, of Niigata, Japan, is facing charges of illegal possession and use of false treasury or bank notes and other instruments of credit.

The case against Matsuo was filed before the 14th Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Dauis-Panglao.

Matsuo is now detained at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology jail in Tagbilaran.

Senior Insp. Magdaleno Mendez, Bohol police operations officer, said a separate case was also being prepared against the Japanese for four fake bank checks, which were found in the taxi used by the accused.

Josephine Naval, money exchanger of the Sunshine Travel and Tours, complained that the Japanese allegedly encashed a fake traveler's check to her on July 5.

Naval alleged that Matsuo exchanged a 2952500 Wells Fargo visa traveler's check with serial no. 115 1200 014 371, equivalent to P24,350.

Naval found the traveler's check was fake a few hours after the suspect had left.

Three policemen led by SPO4 Demetrio Saraspe arrested the Japanese.

Matsuo claimed that he brought the check from Japan but failed to present any receipt.

Matsuo changed his statement and said the check came from one Mario Sitoy whom he described as his close friend from Cebu City.

Saraspe and his team were able to trace the taxi taken by Matsuo.

The team found a blue plastic check containing four more Wells Fargo traveler's checks under a seat in the taxi driven by Antedio Balicog.

The checks had serial numbers 115 1200 014 369; 115 1200 014 370; 115 1200 014 372 and 115 1200 014 373.

DENR exec backs mining firm

LUPON, Davao Oriental—A ranking environment officer here has taken up the cudgels for a mining company accused of causing ecological destruction in the town.

Gilbert Pajo, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said there was no truth to allegations that Vineyard Mining Co. was causing pollution.

"It is not true that Vineyard had caused massive ecological destruction in their place. The mining firm has not even started operating yet," Pajo said.

Earlier, residents of Barangays Calapagan, Don Mariano Marcos and Marayag alleged that Vineyard was polluting their waterways. During a rally at the provincial capitol in Mati town, the residents threatened to confiscate and burn equipment owned by the company unless it packs up and leave.

But Pajo said Vineyard's activities were confined to exploration.

"Metallurgical test is basically not ecologically destructive," he said.

Pajo laid the blame on small-scale miners "because of their irresponsible mining practices."

"Two Cebu City-based businessmen are applying to operate small-scale mining in the area. But we found that these traders have started operating even without a mining permit. Vineyard's name was dragged into the controversy because the traders were formerly connected with the company," said Pajo.

Pajo said he was willing to shut down mining operations in the hinterlands should there be a need to do so. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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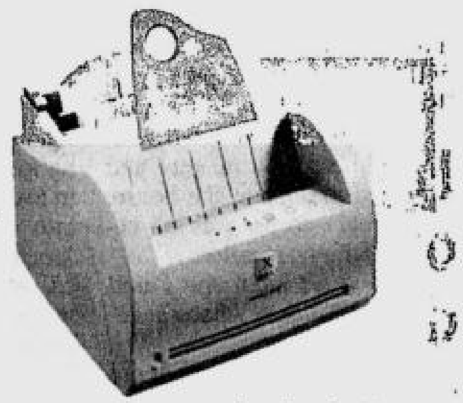

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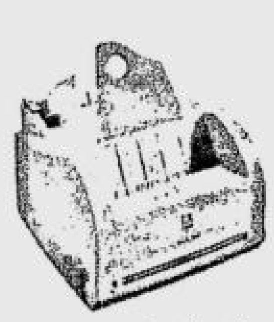

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INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◎ Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Comfort woman becomes symbol of courage, hope

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
San Jose, Antique

LOLA Masing at age 17

FROM SALINOG'S PHOTO ALBUM

A FORMER sex slave of Japanese soldiers during World War II is now a symbol of courage and hope here.

Tomasa Salinog, 73, who was a "comfort woman" for more than a year after the Japanese occupied Antique in 1942, said she's not angry anymore at the Japanese soldiers who raped her and killed her father.

She is no longer angry at neighbors in Barangay Comon who told her, "You're lucky you were raped because you can seek monetary compensation from the Japanese. You're making money out of the war."

Or at a spurned suitor who threw rocks at her house shouting, "You would rather serve those hundreds of Japanese."

Salinog, or Lola Masing to some, said forgiveness could come if the Japanese government apologized and gave compensation.

In 1992, Salinog and a dozen women from Panay Island, surfaced to recount their ordeals as sex slaves of Japanese soldiers during World War II.

Unlike other former comfort women, whose kept their ordeals secret, Salinog's life was an open book in her community because she kept them alive in stories she told neighbors.

Salinog was raised by her father, Roberto, after her mother, Petra Dioso, died a month after giving birth to her. Her father, a carpenter and *tuba* (coconut wine) gatherer, promised not to remarry until she found a suitable husband.

Salinog was 14 when the Kawamura detachment of the Japanese army landed in San Jose, Antique in April 1942, and when soldiers under a Commander Taga, landed the following month.

The ordeal

One rainy day in June 1942, two Japanese soldiers knocked on the door and asked for her. When her father resisted, a Japanese soldier, whom she later learned to be Captain Hirooka took her father's head with a sword.

"It was when I held him in my arms that I found his head severed. I was crying hard but the soldiers took no pity and dragged me out of the house. My father's corpse was left behind," Salinog recalled.

Two years later, she found her father's bones when she rebuilt their house.

The Japanese brought her to a two-story building, known as the Garrison (now the Antique provincial police office) on Gobierno Street. There, before dawn, Hirooka and several soldiers raped her for three days. When she resisted, she was knocked unconscious.

Salinog escaped in December of 1943 when a soldier left the key on a table. A couple hid her but a Colonel Okamura recaptured her.

Okamura treated her like a slave. He, and friends who came by, raped her.

Her freedom came when Japanese soldiers left the province in 1944.

Unable to attend school, she sewed to earn a living. She rejected offers of marriage. "It's because the memories of rape and violence haunt my mind," she said.

She added that she learned of women divorced by their husbands because they were former sex slaves.

In November 1992, news reached Salinog that a group of Japanese lawyers were in Iloilo City to interview comfort women. She went there and in February 1993, prepared for a case at the Tokyo District Court with 46 other women.

On Oct. 15, Salinog and Maria Rosa Henson, the first Filipino comfort woman to come out, made an opening deposition at the Tokyo District Court.

An insult

In 1995, the Japanese government set up the Asian Women's Solidarity Fund to give donations from its citizens to the Asian women victims. The fund paid at least P500,000 to each women. But several former sex slaves rejected the fund, saying it is an insult.

In October 1998, the court dismissed the Filipino victims' claims. When she learned of it, Salinog cried, "I am too ashamed to return home. If this is what happened, I wish I never took on this trial which took so many years."

On Dec. 6, 2000, the Tokyo High Court dismissed the appeal and Salinog brought her fight before the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal in Switzerland. Emperor Hirohito and the government of Japan were declared guilty of crimes against humanity and sex crimes against women. There, Salinog rejected the offer of the Asian Women's Solidarity Fund.

"I did not come out for the money but for justice and (for) my dignity (to be) restored," she declared.

On Dec. 20, 2000, Salinog appealed before the Japanese Supreme Court, backed by the War Crimes Tribunal and Japanese lawyers. The court gave a guilty verdict for rape. In April 2001, Salinog again appealed for her father's murder. She'll return to Japan this August to demand an apology for her father's death.

National artist breathes life to 'Diwata ng Dagat'

By Hazel P. Villa
Miagao, Iloilo

THE "DIWATA ng Dagat" (goddess of the sea) in Philippine folklore is enthralling and extraordinarily attractive. As sentinel of the sea, protector of fishers, healer of the sick and the muse behind a bountiful catch—she is the Filipino fisherfolk's link to the spirit world and is invoked in activities relating to her home.

All of 17 feet from the ground, the "Diwata ng Dagat" has risen and stricken an immortal pose in reinforced concrete and marble aggregate finish in a patch of green facing the College of Fisheries administration building of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV) in this quaint and historic seaside town.

Like most playful goddesses, Diwata in the middle of a small pool filled with one and a half feet of water has caused quite a stir even before she could be unveiled and launched.

UPV students, jeepney drivers and townsfolk talk about her hopeful look, full breasts, shapely underside and of course, that particular area.

Where Guillermo Tolentino's Oblation man has a leaf covering his sensitive parts, the UPV administration had Diwata's discreetly covered with a loincloth to avoid much ado about something that might distract attention away from the sculpture's idealistic intentions.

Then again, it might just be because Napoleon V. Abueva, father of modern Philippine sculpture and national artist for sculpture (1976), created the concrete Diwata and himself ended up as an icon constantly disturbed by students and townsfolk striking up conversations and asking for autographs which he willingly gives.

The excitement is also due in part to getting a prized and very busy artist like Abueva to finally step foot in UPV after 10 years since "Diwata ng Dagat" was first conceptualized.

It could also be due to the campus having a sculptural piece that would symbolize UPV's main strengths, which are fisheries and ocean sciences.

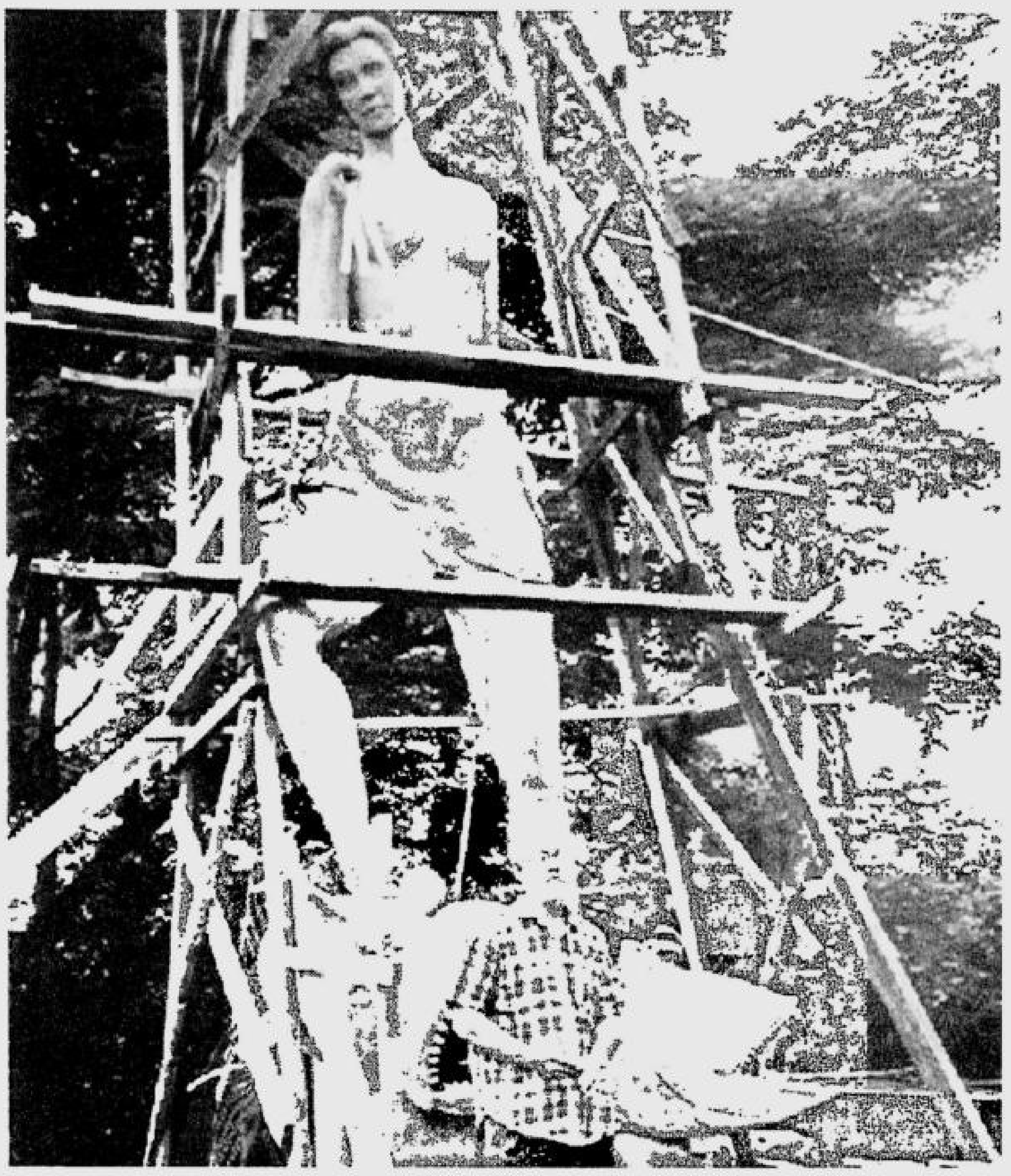
"Diwata ng Dagat" was formally unveiled on Friday, July 25, also the 55th foundation day of UPV that had Abueva and the country's experts in fisheries and ocean sciences meeting up with UPV alumni and fishing industry bigwigs.

First for the artist

For the 72-year-old Abueva, who traces his roots to Bohol, "Diwata ng Dagat" is his first freestanding sculpture (also called "sculpture in the round") that has the sea as a motif.

His trademark windblown hair on his other sculpted subjects can also be seen in the Diwata whose face, said the artist, has no particular model. She is simply "a Filipina" pulling an 18-foot fishnet made of stainless steel.

"If I would have my way, I'll have Diwata's private parts exposed. UPV requested to have them covered, *para di malamigan* (so they wouldn't feel cold)," said Abueva, chuckling at the thought of his work possibly arousing baser instincts.



NATIONAL Artist for Sculpture Napoleon Abueva stands beside the 17-foot "Diwata ng Dagat," his latest work at the Miagao campus of UP Visayas.

HAZEL VILLA

The sculpture, already made "piecemeal" in Abueva's home in Tandang Sora, Quezon City since June 2001, arrived in five big crates and was transported by two trucks from the Iloilo shipyard all the way to Miagao, an hour's drive away.

Abueva started installing Diwata and the three pieces of fish on which she rides this June 2002 in intermittent visits with two assistants. The national artist put finishing touches on the work in the first week of July.

For Abueva, the message of the hopeful but strong Diwata standing on fish and pulling a fishnet focuses on the importance of marine life as the main source of a community's protein needs.

For UPV, the sculpture reminds them of protecting the sea, as the "Diwata ng Dagat," though benevolent, can be vindictive especially if her habitat is transgressed or destroyed.

"The concept of 'Diwata ng Dagat' promotes deeper understanding of the inherent Filipino character: its ardor for good deeds, its notion of transcendental hope, and its reverence for the drama of culture," read a UPV article explaining the idea behind the sculpture.

Prolific Abueva

"Abueva's 'Diwata ng Dagat' is a labor of love, more than anything else," said Lyncen Fernandez, UPV publication circulation officer.

One of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of 1959 on top of other many citations, recognition and awards, Abueva is a very busy man. While working on the Diwata project in UPV, he traveled back and forth to oversee two other projects in Quezon City and Samar.

As of this writing, the prolific Abueva who took up his graduate studies at Harvard University in 1956, has done 15 sculptures for institutions, 200 commissioned sculptures in private collections, and about 25 other works in his own collection. Some of his commissioned works can be found in Singapore, Taiwan and the United States.

Declared national artist in 1976 at the age of 46, Abueva follows after his teacher Guillermo Tolentino of UP Oblation fame who was the first national artist for sculpture in 1973. No one else follows after Abueva, younger brother of former UP President Jose V. Abueva, as national artist in the field of sculpture.

Young at heart and in art

The UP-educated Abueva's distinction is mostly in his being adept in either academic representational style or modern abstract as well as for his innovations like "buoyant sculpture" or sculpture meant to be appreciated from the surface of a placid pool.

He is also known for using hardwood, adobe, metal, stainless steel, cement, marble, bronze, iron, alabaster, coral and brass for his many works. One of his works, "The Sculpture," can be seen at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The National Heroes Shrine on Mt. Samat, Bataan also showcases 16 marble relief sculptures by Abueva while the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park in Balintawak, Caloocan City is known for the national artist's 45-foot "The Transfiguration" piece in bronze.

Abueva said his magnum opus, if only he could get funding and support, would be a sculpture garden akin to Japan's Hakone Outdoor Sculpture Park on five hectares of land. It may be ambitious and even though the magnum opus' location is still a big question mark, Abueva is already planning for it.

At 72 and retired from teaching at the UP Diliman College of Fine Arts in 1995, how does Abueva maintain his passion for an art that needs strong hands and a constant search for inspirations? He did not launch into long drawn out explanations, but gave a poetic rendition of his career philosophy in carefully chosen words.

Consider these lines, delivered during lunchtime at the UPV cafeteria: "Whatever desire is expressed in form, one conceives in the realm of design. The mind and the hand can falter or surpass—if you but answer how much was done by love."

No wonder then that the buxom Diwata has her full breasts and undersides exposed, and university students and Miagao folk come flocking to her and Abueva.

Women make inroads in Bacolod's barangay elections

LUCID INTERVAL

Rowena V. Guanzon

COMPETITION in the 4,945 barangays in the last elections was stiff, with more candidates running than in previous elections. That is because the barangay *kagawad* now has a salary. In some highly urbanized cities, a *kagawad* can receive a salary of P10,000. Now the time they spend away from their paid work and, for women, their unpaid household work, will be compensated.

The choice of barangay officials is crucial to the development of the barangay. They generate and allocate funds and programs and ensure the delivery of basic services. You can tell a low performing barangay chairperson from the health indicators in his or her community such as the low rate of child immunization and high malnutrition rate.

Potable water, health and nutrition, livelihood projects—these are bottomless demands in the barangays. But the income of barangays is limited, hence the barangay chairpersons' political dependence on their mayors for infrastructure projects and development programs.

Barangays in the whole country get 40 percent of the total collections of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Of this amount, each barangay gets a share based on a formula of 60 percent population and 40 percent equal share for all regardless of land area. There are barangays who have incomes as high as sixth class municipalities such as Paraiso in Sagay, Negros Occidental, which has an income of about P4 million. With few exceptions, most of the barangays in the provinces have little income.

Each barangay therefore competes for a share in city's projects, and politics is a major factor in the allocation of these funds. That is why we cannot erase political patronage in this country as the strongest factor in ensuring a politician's stay in power, aside from money.

Winning an election in the barangay requires the same formula as running for mayor—popularity, money, machinery. The money and machinery are provided by the mayor, governor or the congressman. Patronage is still the name of the game because that is the source of money.

Where do women in the barangays fit in all these? They served their communities as health worker or volunteers but they do not have political power. That is why women do not have access to the allocation of funds. They do not even have control of their Gender and Development (GAD) budget of 5 percent of the barangay's income unless they have a woman barangay chairperson.

The barangay is a smaller area so women would have a good chance of winning in barangay elections. Yet, I think approximately less than one fourth of candidates were women. Women do not run for public office because it costs money, and if they win, they have the double burden of work outside and inside the home. There is also the prevailing stereotype that leadership positions are best given to men, not women, and a woman's place is in "private" not "public" life. These barriers have to be broken for women to have a voice in politics.

In the last elections, we see some encouraging signs, Bacolod City has a marked improvement, with 12 women barangay chairpersons out of 61, or about 20 percent. One of them is the new chairperson of Bata, Zenaida Paduano, 60 years old and a high school graduate. She is also known as the mother of Lualhati Carapali, national commander of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade.

But the statistics in other cities show the general picture in the country. Kabankalan, the biggest city in Negros Occidental, has only two women out of 32 barangay officials, and Cadiz City has only 3 out of 22.

If only women would vote for women candidates in the barangay, we could move a little faster.

No way Biazon will jump ship, unless …

From page A1

Senate impasse.

On Wednesday, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said the same committee would be offered to Biazon, but on another condition—that he would support the Malacañang-certified anti-terrorism bill.

Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, said he did not like the new condition because it projected him as a coddler of terrorism.

He also expressed disappointment that the offer came with conditions because this meant giving up his independence as a senator. He said he would only accept the defense committee if there were no strings attached.

Critical collaboration

Biazon said President Macapagal-Arroyo should stop wooing opposition senators to her side because the administration coalition in the Senate already had the numbers at 13-10.

He said he was elected as an opposition member of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and wanted to remain so, but that he would help the administration's good programs through "critical collaboration."

He said the continuing "piracy" of opposition senators was weakening the Senate as an institution.

Of the administration's overtures to him, Biazon said: "It's a carrot-and-stick approach and I do not like it. Are we playing games here? If there is no condition, I will accept (the offer) because it's a job I would like and am qualified to do. But I don't have to dance to their music."

Biazon's colleague in the opposition, Sen. Vicente Sotto III, also denied he was jumping ship, and said it was unfair of Majority Leader Loren Legarda to insinuate that he would be the next to defect to the administration.

"If she did (say that), I am at a loss as to her motives," he said. "Fortunately or unfortunately for her, this is not true. I am not jumping ship and moving to the other side."

But Sotto, who has accepted an "overseer" post in the Dangerous Drugs Board, said he was still willing to help the President fight the illegal drug trade.

'Away from the media'

Biazon also said Senators Robert Jaworski and Edgardo Angara—of late engaged in a word war—should talk privately and settle the issue for the good of the Senate.

"I'd like to see (them) talk in one corner, in private and away from the prying eyes of the media," he said.

Speaking in general terms, Sen. Blas Ople dwelled on the same theme of unity and reconciliation at his last press conference as a lawmaker yesterday afternoon.

"Life is too short to spend on petty enmities. Let us not wish our nation ill," said the 75-year-old Ople, who has accepted the foreign affairs portfolio offered by the President.

The conflict between Jaworski and Angara erupted at the end of the seven-week impasse at the Senate.

Jaworski accused Angara of spreading the rumor that he had agreed to defect to the administration in exchange for the deferred collection of an outstanding loan with the Philippine National Bank (PNB). But Angara denied this.

"I ask for mutual forgiveness and reconciliation," said Ople, whose resignation from the Senate to assume the top post at the Department of Foreign Affairs has given the administration coalition a clear majority.

Ople said he had "already forgiven" his detractors, including some civil society groups that aired objections to his appointment to the DFA.

He said both the administration and opposition blocs had the common goal of overcoming mass poverty within a decade.

"That's why I call on all political leaders and parties to stop wrangling," he said, adding:

"The focus of politics must not be on … power or the satisfaction of elephantine egos that now drive the political system.

"Time is precious and should not be wasted on endless heckling and infighting. Politicians should save their energies for political battles in the 2004 general elections."

Liability

The Jaworski-Angara squabble aside, House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez suggested that the PNB come clean on the issue.

He said the government-controlled bank should be transparent about Jaworski's reported P300-million loan and go after him if necessary.

"It is now up to the PNB to look into this—if (Jaworski) is still liable," Gonzalez said.

The congressman said that if Jaworski's version—that it was his business partner who was liable for the loan—proved to be untrue, "that does not remove him from the liability."

Gonzalez is the author of a resolution that paved the way for an ongoing House investigation of unpaid loans granted by government financial institutions to influential persons and favored corporations.

Gonzalez said reports on the debts of certain senators to the PNB and the Government Service Insurance System surfaced many months before the Senate leadership crisis broke and put the spotlight on Jaworski.

The House good government committee is still conducting its inquiry and has started looking into loans P50 million and above.

Gonzalez said the PNB would be asked to explain Jaworski's loan at the resumption of the inquiry. ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno and Juliet L. Javellana***

LP taps Gloria as honorary chair, presidential bet

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE LIBERAL Party has named President Macapagal-Arroyo as honorary chair and presidential candidate—if she decides to run for election—in 2004.

Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad of Batanes, LP president, said the President accepted the honorary title during the election of officers of the party's national executive council at Club Filipino on July 24. He said Michael Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, phoned the President during the election and she said yes.

The LP is the third party to be officially connected with the President. She recently became the chair of the ruling Lakas-NUCD while her original party, Kampi, was revitalized with the election of her longtime personal publicist Dante Ang as president.

There are 23 LP members in the House, one (Francis Pangilinan) in the Senate and three in the Cabinet—Defensor, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas.

Father's party

Abad said the LP named her honorary chair in recognition of her family's ties with the party. Her late father, President Diosdado Macapagal, served as LP president.

"Since we are a part of the coalition and therefore we enjoy smooth relations with her, we thought it best to have her as our honorary chair to provide guidance to the party especially in political matters," Abad said.

Abad said the President would not be involved in running the party.

"It's an honorary title to recognize the Macapagal family's ties with the Liberal Party and to enable us to work closely with her," Abad added.

Abad, who was elected to his second term as LP president, said the party would support Ms Macapagal's candidacy in 2004.

"As things stand now, the party is solidly behind her administration. If she decides to run in 2004, there's no reason why the party won't support her," Abad said in a phone interview.

Before Ms Macapagal was elected Lakas chair, it was bruited about that she would align herself with the LP and become its standard bearer in 2004.

Abad said the LP would be honored to have Ms Macapagal as its presidential candidate.

"We do not totally discount that because we don't know what the situation in Lakas will be in two years. It will be an honor for our party to have a strong presidential candidate in the person of the President. But I think the likely scenario is that she will be supported by the core coalition of parties (formed during the Edsa People Power II)," Abad said.

'Uncontested'

Abad said there is "no serious contender" to Ms Macapagal in the present political landscape.

"She is almost uncontested," he said, adding that the opposition does not even have any formidable candidate.

But Abad said the President's decision to head one of the parties might cause a little discomfort to the other coalition partners. He said the "ideal situation" would have been Ms Macapagal does not chair any party but the coalition.

Ople admits being 'Amboy'

From page A1

US and I do not apologize for that," he said at his last press conference at the Senate. "I am an avid student of US history, especially the American Revolution and the US Civil War, and I idolize President Abraham Lincoln, one of the greatest leaders history has produced."

Ople also said that contrary to criticisms, the United States would not be granted basing rights under the proposed RP-US Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA).

He said that a Cabinet committee composed of himself, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez was still working on the final draft of the agreement, and that it would be inappropriate to make public an unfinished draft.

Militant groups as well as party-list representatives had earlier said Ople's appointment to the DFA guaranteed the approval of the controversial agreement that would allow the US government to put up storage facilities in the country. They also said the MLSA was being rushed in time for US Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit here on Aug. 3.

"I want to make it absolutely clear that there will be no basing rights for foreign troops or facilities. The Constitution will be fully respected," Ople said, adding that the MLSA was "not tied to any visit or to any deadline."

He also said the "intention" of the two countries was "simply to formulate accounting and administrative guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Visiting Forces Agreement, especially in the light of our common fight against international terrorism."

'Litigious society'

Reyes said the delay in the approval of the MLSA was being caused by critics wanting to scrutinize the fine print and challenge its constitutionality.

"We are (being) careful," Reyes said yesterday at a press conference. "It's taking a long time because we are a very litigious society. Everybody wants to sue and hale to court everybody else."

He said the committee was making sure that "whatever is agreed upon or signed will be, as much as possible, very, very clear as to its intention."

He also said President Macapagal-Arroyo had "specifically instructed" that the document should take the form of an executive agreement "that would not require ratification or concurrence of the Senate."

The defense secretary called the press conference to deny reports that the MLSA would allow the US government 10 years of basing rights, and that the document had "strings" attached to it.

According to Reyes, the disapproval of the MLSA will give the world the message that Filipinos spent a tremendous amount of effort in criticizing the agreement without understanding it.

For now, he said, the document had passed the Technical Working Group (TWG) level and was at the Cabinet level although the committee was still consulting with the TWG.

He reiterated that the MLSA was a "low-level," "accounting" document that would facilitate the transfer of US military equipment to be used in training exercises here.

Goodbyes

Ople is scheduled to take his oath as foreign secretary on Tuesday morning in Malacañang and to join his first Cabinet meeting on that day.

He said he would hold office at the Department of Foreign Affairs immediately upon taking his oath and would await confirmation hearings at the Commission on Appointments after a week.

Yesterday, Ople said goodbye to deposed President Joseph Estrada and to Sen. Edgardo Angara, president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

In his [illegible] to them, he said he was resigning from the LDP and would remain without a party and politically independent until 2004.

"Since I no longer have any lofty political ambitions for myself, being independent and partyless is not a problem," he said.

Ople thanked Estrada for the "many kindnesses you showed me during your administration."

He told Angara that he had served the LDP faithfully and well for over a decade but had to leave his partymates with his decision to join the Cabinet.

He said he would still take an active public life beyond 2004 in whatever capacity.

"I will always have fond memories of the battles we shared together and will miss the friendships forged over many years, although I hope we shall remain the best of friends in spite of the following divergent paths in the service of our people," he added.

Ople will wind up his affairs in the Senate by joining the caucus of opposition senators at noon on Monday, his last day as senator.

He said he wanted to bid them goodbye and expressed thanks to them for their support and for respecting his decision to accept a Cabinet position.

Balikatan

Also yesterday, Ople called for an assessment of the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 exercise as the country prepared for a second and longer training program with the United States.

He said there was a need to examine the pluses and minuses of the training against global terrorism and apply its lessons to the next Balikatan.

Ople also said his critics in the Left had been waging a bloody civil war against the people for three decades now, thereby thwarting the development of the country.

He said that they were not fit for civil discourse in a democratic society, and that they should account for their supposed crimes against the government and the people.

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Trust funds of pre-need firms short by ₱4B

From page A1

the names of the eight other deficient pre-need firms purportedly to protect them from negative publicity.

In a press statement, the SEC said it had approved the funding schemes presented by seven of the companies to plug their 2001 trust fund deficiencies.

But CAP and "one or two" others have yet to secure the SEC's approval for their funding proposals, the SEC official said.

The official explained that it was relatively simpler to approve the funding schemes of the seven as their deficiencies were small compared to that of CAP and the one or two other firms.

Tight regulation

Amid a bipartisan call in the Senate for an immediate probe into the "general state of the pre-need industry, including the financial health of CAP," Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas yesterday suggested that pre-need companies should be subjected to close monitoring and tight regulation like banks.

He said he would make such a recommendation to the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the central bank, of which he is a member.

Monetary authorities closely monitor banks' transactions with Dosri—for directors, officers, staff and related interests—accounts.

"Pre-need companies that invest in ventures owned or managed by affiliates and stockholders' relatives are comparable to Dosri accounts of banks," said Roxas who as a congressman four years ago filed a bill to transfer the supervision of pre-need companies from the SEC to the Insurance Commission.

CAP had reportedly invested heavily in Fil-Estate Land Inc. whose ventures include the Camp John Hay development and the Edsa-MRT system.

CAP president and owner Enrique Sobrepeña is the father of Fil-Estate president Robert John Sobrepeña.

Hard-earned money

Roxas said there was a need to regulate the pre-need industry more closely because the money invested in these firms were "hard-earned money, the blood, sweat and tears of average wage earners."

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senators Blas Ople, Robert Jaworski, Panfilo Lacson and Teresa Aquino-Oreta, in separate statements, called for a Senate inquiry in the wake of the INQUIRER report about CAP's P2.5-billion trust fund deficiency.

"Regardless of assurances from CAP management of an additional infusion of capital, this deficiency has caused severe anxiety on the part of millions of CAP plan holders who demand an immediate inquiry into the company's financial standing and its use of its trust fund," said Ople and Jaworski who filed Senate Resolution No. 382.

Oreta called on the SEC to "disclose the names of pre-need firms in financial trouble to the public."

Drilon said he would push for the speedy passage of the Pre-Need Plan Securities Code which he authored.

Senate Bill No. 447 seeks to transfer the supervision and regulation of pre-need companies to the Insurance Commission.

The bill also provides that "at least 10 percent of the fund (of a pre-need firm) shall be set aside and maintained as liquidity reserve fund."

Pre-need companies will also be required to set aside 10 percent of the fund for lending to countryside and business enterprises and for low-cost housing programs of the government.

The new law will also provide for the establishment of a Planholders Protection Fund that would compensate for "extraordinary losses or damage that pre-need companies may suffer due to business failure or insolvency."

Corrective measures

The SEC said that it had required the deficient pre-need companies to observe certain corrective measures and to cover the trust fund deficiency no later than the end of the year. Only when they fail to do so will the SEC publish their names.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said she "sees no problem" in approving CAP's funding scheme proposal, subject to the submission of supporting documentation.

The CAP submitted last week a "trust fund enhancement program" to the commission.

CAP president Sobrepeña assured the public that the required documentation would be presented to the SEC and that the proposed funding scheme would be approved.

Sobrepeña pointed out that CAP's P2.5-billion deficiency was not a cash deficiency but an "asset trust fund present value deficiency."

Under the scheme, CAP would pump in P2.5 billion in cash and assets, including property, bonds and bank guarantees.

The commission said it was reviewing some additional requirements that should be met by pre-need companies with trust fund deficiencies, including liquefying real estate or putting up a real estate mortgage to ensure liquidity in time of payment, raising the liquidity reserve of companies with trust fund deficiencies, among others.

Consumer protection

Roxas said the DTI would be coming out with a study on the pre-need industry and would soon give its recommendations to the SEC in the interest of protecting Filipino consumers.

Since the first pre-need product entered the Philippine market some 36 years ago, the pre-need industry has grown into a billion-peso business generating more than P38 billion worth of plans sold in 2001 alone.

Roxas stressed that the industry's fast growth should not be equated with stability considering that the ranks of pre-need industry have shrunk in the past few years.

More than a third of the 92 registered pre-need firms have ceased operations and only 45 have renewed their operating licenses with the SEC this year compared to 54 active companies in 2001.

Roxas estimated that there were 92,000 plan holders with P2.7 billion worth of gross contract sales that have been adversely affected by the closure of 13 pre-need companies.

He said the pre-need firms target mainly "Filipinos who are not wealthy and who have no access to more sophisticated, high-yielding investment instruments."

Newlyweds and couples below 40 years old are the target of education plans while the middle-aged are the main market for pension funds.

Economist Edwin Pineda of the University of the Asia & Pacific urged consumers to either read the actuarial valuation report of a pre-need company or to talk to the pre-need firm's actuary before purchasing a pre-need plan.

The actuarial valuation report or the actuary himself would be an invaluable source of information on the capability of the pre-need firm to meet its obligations to plan holders, he said.

Bush . . .

From page A1

cameral conference further directed that the $30-million military aid be designated as an "emergency" for budgetary purposes.

"This means that its release should be expedited," he said in a report released to the press, adding that he has already "asked the Bush administration to support this increase."

This support from the executive and legislative, coupled with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell's visit to Manila on Aug. 2, signals America's desire for sustained military cooperation in the Asia-Pacific in the war against terrorism.

Del Rosario left for Manila on Tuesday to help prepare for Powell's visit.

Powell arrives in the evening of Aug. 2 and leaves the following day. He will visit Asian nations after attending the July 31-Aug. 1 Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum (ARF) in Brunei.

According to the state department, Powell will discuss "key bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual concern, including counter-terrorism, security, and promotion of economic cooperation and global prosperity" in the countries he will visit.

In the Philippines, he will likely discuss with the President the continued US military presence in the country, including the resumption of the joint military exercises in October and the controversial logistics support. He will also discuss the $55-million foreign military financing.

Sources told the INQUIRER that Powell would also present Ms Macagapal with a deed for the $500,000 annual grant from US Veterans Administration secretary Anthony J. Principi to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center for Philippine-based Filipino World War II veterans.

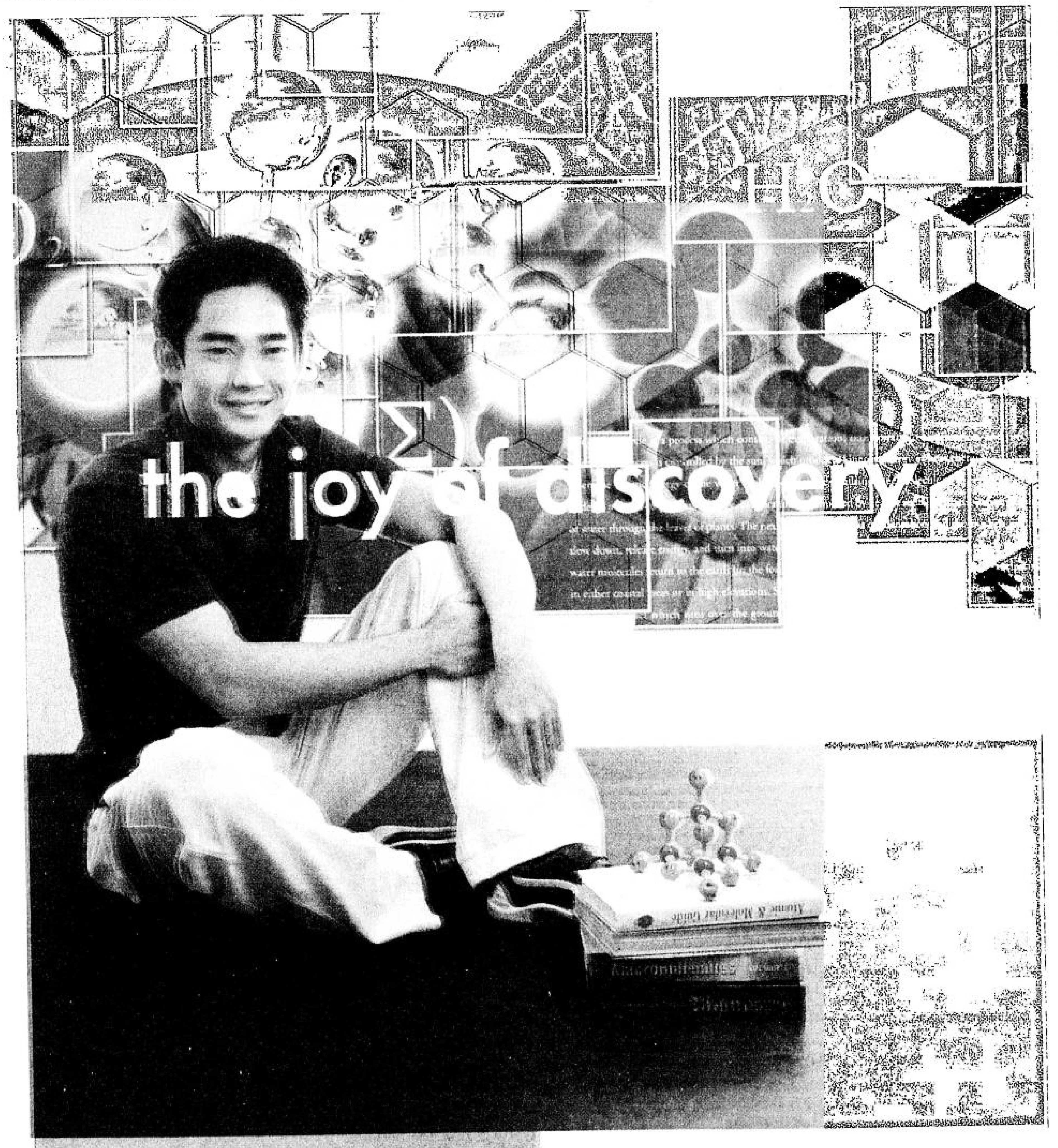
Ms Macapagal is expected to urge the United States to increase its military aid for the modernization of the Philippine armed forces.

She will also relay her concerns over a trade bill giving duty-free access to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to encourage farmers to stop producing crops that can be turned into drugs. The Philippines' canned tuna industry stands to lose $40 million a year and 117,000 jobs if the bill is approved.

Ms Macapagal will also urge the United States not to aggravate the country's economic woes and to ease up on overstaying Filipinos with deportation orders in the United States, except in cases of those who have been convicted of crimes.

Philippine Embassy officials have been lobbying American lawmakers to delete a provision in the proposed Andean Trade Preference Expansion Act which seeks to grant duty-free access to the canned tuna exports of Andean countries to the United States.

As an alternative, the Philippine is urging the US Congress to give the same preferential treatment to the Philippines and to the other Asean tuna-exporting countries.



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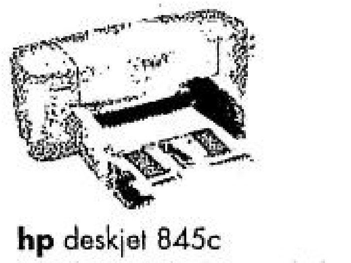

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Golf Power over RPN 9

GOLF Power today over RPN 9 features the highlights of the Putra Cup starting at 2 p.m. The event was held in 1996 in Myanmar. This was the last time the Philippines won this annual regional meet. The team was composed of Rey Pagunsan, Richard Sinfuego, Tony Lascuna and Gerard Cantada, who have all turned professional. It is produced by Joe Cantada Sports and sponsored by Absolute Pure Distilled Drinking Water.

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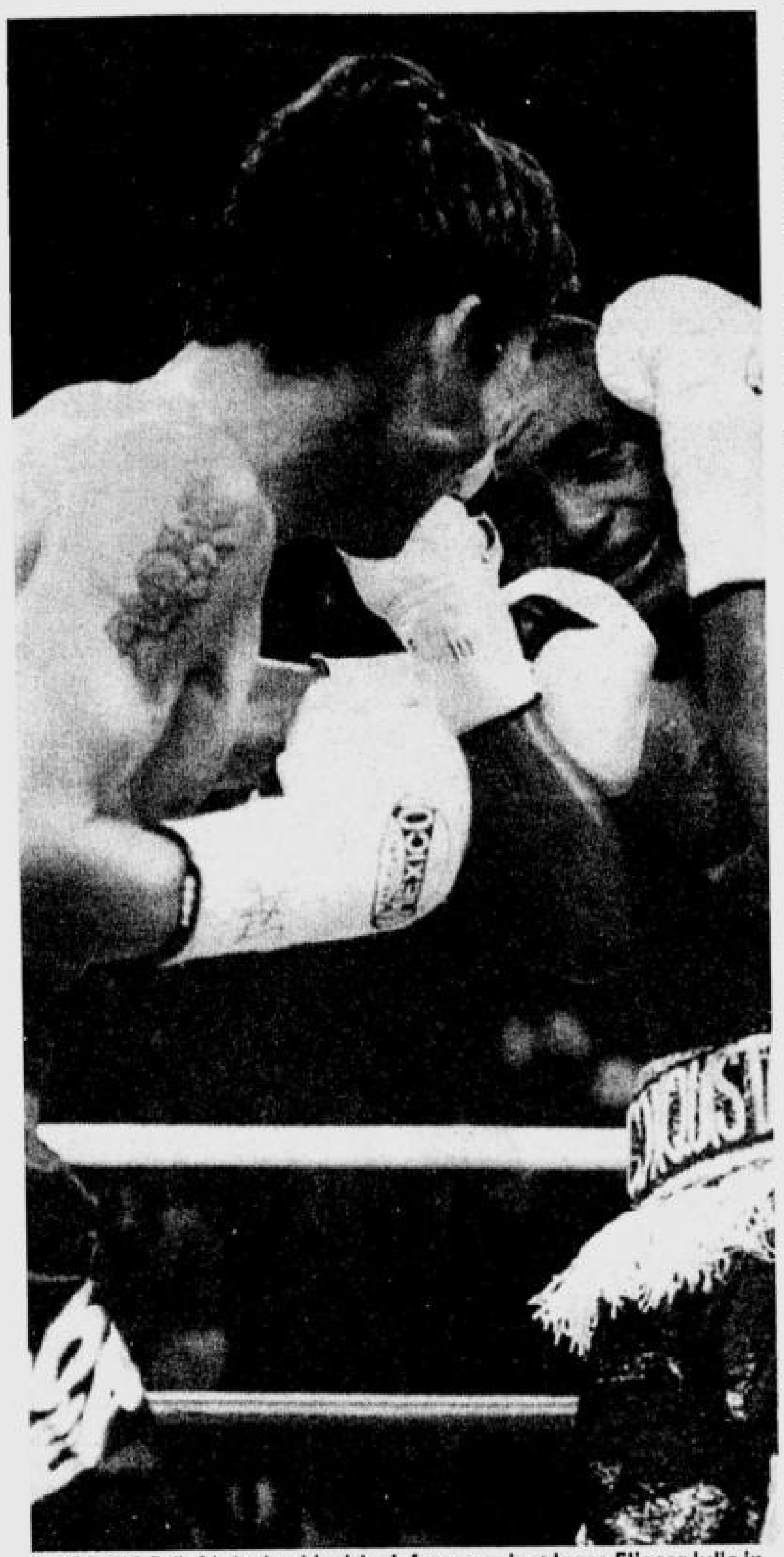
ILLEGAL DISMISSAL

Elorde to sue Pacquiao for damages



PACQUIAO (left) during his title defense against Jorge Eliecer Julio in Memphis, Tennessee, last month. Pacquiao stopped the challenger from Colombia in two rounds to retain his crown. AP FILE PHOTO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MARTY Elorde, fired recently as the manager of world junior featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao, yesterday said he would seek damages "for illegal dismissal."

Elorde, son of the late boxing legend Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, has a contract as Pacquiao's manager that does not expire until 2005.

Pacquiao, the only reigning Filipino world boxing champion, had said he fired Elorde "for negligence in the handling" of the boxer's career.

Elorde, who appeared yesterday as guest in the weekly Scoop Forum at Kamayan along West Ave., said he was saddened by Pacquiao's move to terminate his services.

"I know that he (Pacquiao) is a very good person," said Elorde. "I'm sorry that it had come to this. But my lawyers said his letter has left us with no choice but to file charges."

Although Elorde said that he has yet to receive the true copy of the document terminating his services, he said the grounds cited by Pacquiao to dismiss him "degraded me personally and professionally as a boxing manager."

What he had received thus far is a photocopy of the document.

Elorde refused to comment when asked if Pacquiao's other manager, Rod Nazario, had a hand in the case.

"I don't know," said Elorde. "When Pacquiao fought and won over South African Lehlohonolo Lebwaba last year, we were together in the United States for more than a month."

Elorde said he doesn't know why Pacquiao's camp has not given him the original copy of the termination letter. He said he had merely obtained a faxed copy of it from the Games and Amusements Board.

"I know that deep in Manny's heart, he knows that I never neglected him and that I fulfilled my duties as his manager," Elorde added. "I know that this can be settled through a dialogue between us and I'm still open to that."

The INQUIRER called up Pacquiao's cell phone but his aide said he was busy.

Pacquiao is busy preparing for a non-title bout against World Boxing Association super bantamweight champion Jesus Salud on Aug. 20 in Hawaii.

Athletes get ₱4.2M from POC

Olympic Solidarity gives bulk of training expenses

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee has set aside P4.2 million ($84,000) for the training of Filipino athletes in 10 sports disciplines included in the Busan Asian Games program.

A big chunk of the funds—P3.6 million ($72,000)—is coming from the Olympic Solidarity program while the rest will be provided by the POC.

Six associations—athletics, archery, fencing, shooting, taekwondo and judo—are getting $12,000 each from the OS. The other four—billiards and snookers, karatedo, rowing and wushu—are receiving POC assistance of $3,000 each.

Included in the Olympic Solidarity program are John Lozada, Christabel Martes, Eduardo Buenavista and coaches Luisito Artiaga, Mario Castro and Romeo Gido of Patafa, Purita Joy Marino and coach Henry Manalang of archery, Walbert Mendoza, Lenita Reyes and Avelino Victorino of fencing, Rasheya Jasmin Luis and coach Danilo Flores of shooting, Roberto Cruz and Veronica Domingo of taekwondo, John Baylon of judo and Lily So and Mark Rosales of wushu.

Billiards, karatedo and rowing have yet to name the recipients of their grants from POC.

"We expect these (grants) to help our athletes' training and boost our (country's) medal chances in the Busan Asian Games," said POC president Celso L. Dayrit.

The POC-PSC Task Force has yet to finalize the list of athletes going to the Asian Games, but chair Tom Carrasco, who is also the RP chief of mission to the Busan Asiad, expects no less than 190 to make it.

Asian wrestling ranks Vietnam No. 1 pick

PREVIOUS gold medallists from Vietnam are arriving for the IV Southeast Asian Wrestling Championship set for Aug. 7-10 at the Badminton Hall of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Vietnam, the top favorite, will field 7 entries in the women's freestyle and 8 in the Greco-Roman weight bracket in the men's division.

The championship is being organized by the Wrestling Association of the Philippines with the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office as major sponsors. The Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority, Milo and Philippine Olympic Committee are supporting the event. Tiara Oriental in Malugay Street in Makati is the official hotel.

"Our team is ready," said Marciano Basas, head coach of the RP Team. "We are better-trained this time. Our aim is to dethrone Vietnam."

Admission to the event is free.

The Philippines finished second behind Vietnam in Bangkok two years, bringing home 12 medals—three golds, nine silver and one bronze.

Indonesia, which used to dominate wrestling in the region, is sending 16 male competitors.

Thailand has 10 male and 6 female entries and Cambodia 6.
MAR

Aparente tries to keep Caltex Extreme lead today

SONNY Aparente of General Santos 4X4 Club will try to fortify his lead as the 2002 Caltex Delo 4X4 Extreme Challenge stages its third leg today at the Cebu Civic Trade Center in Ayala 2, Cebu City.

Aparente ruled the kickoff leg in Lanang, Davao City and wound up fifth in the Caltex Delo Mangima Challenge in Bukidnon to enjoy solo leadership in this event sponsored by Caltex Delo and organized by the National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders Inc. (NAsFOR) headed by Ramon To-ong.

But four other talented drivers from Mindanao—Tom Gempesaw of 4Wdavao, Toten Macmang and Richard Imano of Cagayan de Oro Off-Road Club and Bambi Bernales of 4Xfun CDO—are just close behind in this series also supported by Procter and Gamble Philippines, 103.5 K-Lite, RX93.1, 199 Off Road House, Ramsey Winches, AC Delco Batteries, and Downy Off Road.

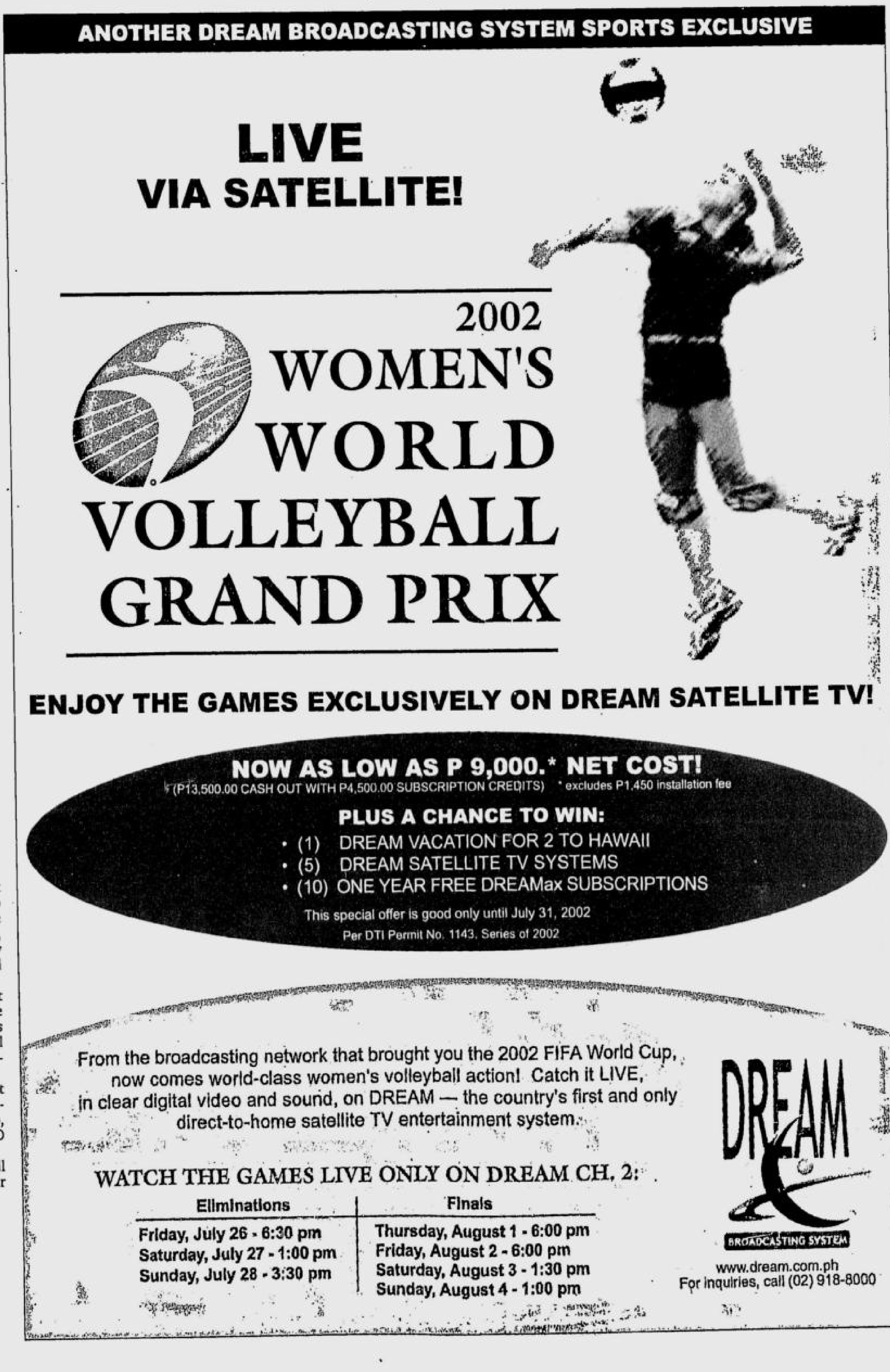
"We expect a tight race. But strategy will play a big part in the event as the track design offers challenging obstacles that will squeeze out the driver's ingenuity," said To-ong.

"The title race is so close that this leg could spring some surprises," said Jean Ernest Maningo, product manager of Caltex DELO diesel engine oil.

Interested participants may call 0917-5308224, 899-0835 or 0919-2890557.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Gerry Diño beat Ferdinand Cudao to bag the men's open weight judo title in the 38th national individual judo championships at the Garden Square, Harrison Plaza Mall. Also today in 1994, Jethro Dionisio scored 999.1979 points to capture the International Practical Shooting Conforderation Western States championship in Reno, Nevada.



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MBA calls off 2002 season to restructure

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THE METROPOLITAN Basketball Association is out of the sporting scene—for now.

MBA Chair Santi Araneta yesterday called off the remaining games of the National Conference, but instructed his think tank and marketing group to restructure the league's format with the vision of creating a new identity.

"It's basically a re-tooling. Although we have also heard rumors saying the MBA is dead or dying, we would like to bet on it that we are not. We would soon spring back with activities that would also complement the other leagues and Philippine basketball in general," Araneta said after meeting with the MBA board and Commissioner Chito Loyzaga.

Among the possibilities raised during the caucus were the transformation of the MBA from a professional to amateur league and the dropping of the regional format.

While the return to the amateur ranks gained acceptance, most team owners, including Araneta of the LBC Batangas Blades, were cold on the junking of its regional concept.

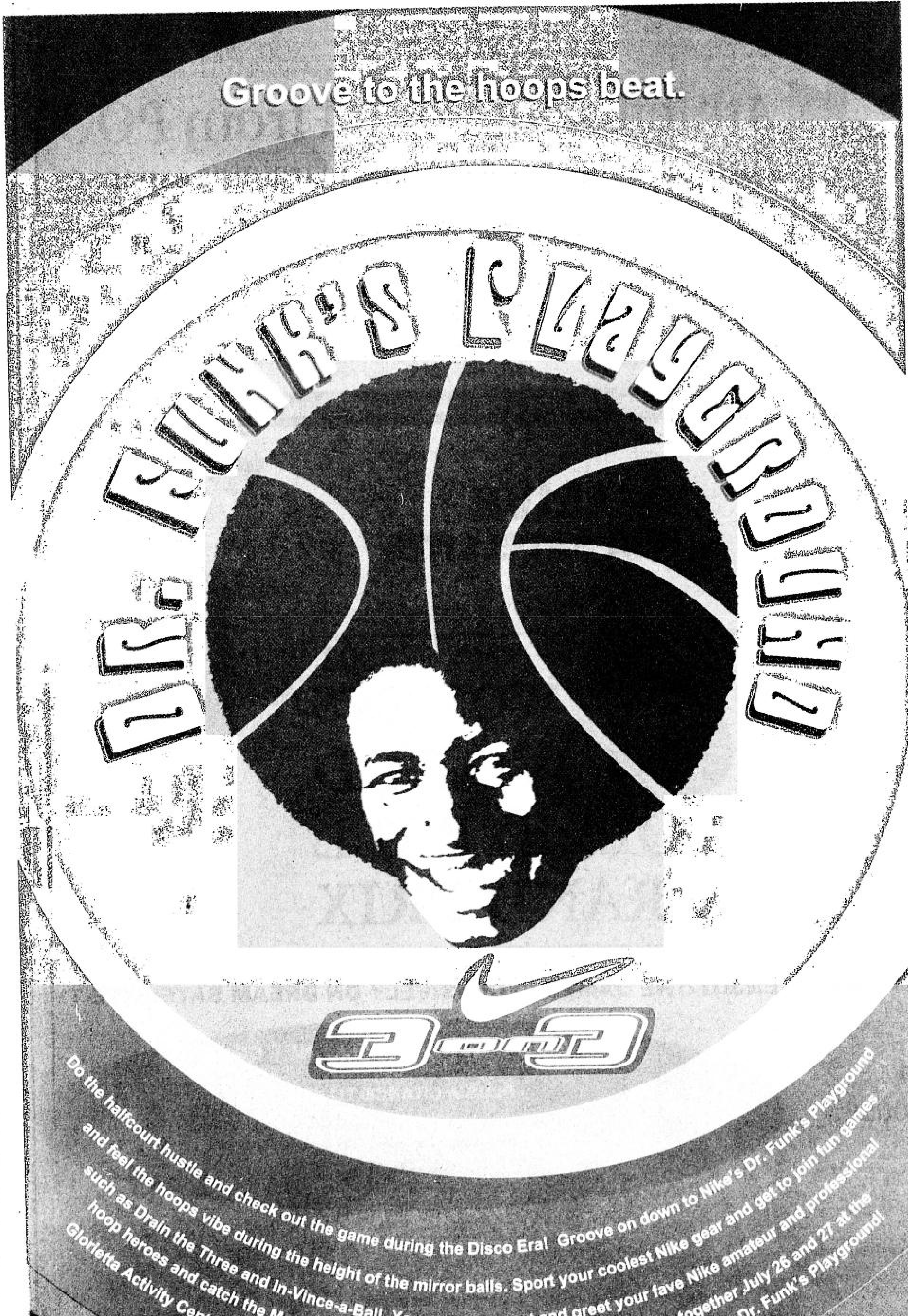
"We thrived on being a regional league. The fans would be the first to be hurt by our decision to call off the games, so we are paying them back by guaranteeing them of our return as a regional league," Araneta added.

Araneta also assured salaries of players, coaches and MBA staff will be honored. Said Araneta: "Everybody will get their due because we still continue to exist as a league. We are only setting our sights on a stronger league that is attuned with the times."

As proof, Araneta said the MBA will keep its offices, including those in the regions, and its website, which will continue to run news on league developments before it opens shop anew early next year.

"We've staked all we had in the possibilities of creating a pro league that is grassroot and regionally rooted. In five years, we have learned and gained more than we really expected, and it primed us to seek another avenue that would make the MBA a success both as a business venture and a sports league," Araneta said.

Araneta also reiterated that the MBA would keep its commitment to help the Basketball Association of the Philippines in the formation of national teams for international competitions, including the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam. *Roy Luarca*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WINS AGAIN

Anna Kournikova returns a shot to Wayne Prakusya of Indonesia in the second round of the Bank of the West Classic at Stanford, California. Kournikova won, 7-5, 6-4. AP

Triathletes to compete in Asian tilts

TWO batches of national triathletes, a veterans group and a juniors team, are slated to vie for honors in separate Asian events and activities in the next two weeks as part of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines' preparations for the 11th Asian Championships.

National champion George Vilog will lead the veterans in battling their Asian rivals in the Beijing International Triathlon set July 28.

With Vilog in the Standard Distance 51.5 km (1.5 km swim-40 Km bike-10 Km run) event are national Under-23 female champion Kaye Lopez and former NTT champion Mark Candelaria. The three will try to improve their Asian rankings for 2002.

The second group, consisting of Francis Mercado (Nat'l Junior Sprint Male champion), Astrud Valdez (Nat'l Junior Sprint Female champion) and Andrew Alon-Alon (RP Junior Sprint Male no. 2), undergo intense and scientific training in the upcoming IOC/ITU Solidarity Camp for junior triathletes in Nagara River, Kaidu City, Japan set July 30 to Aug. 3.

Organized by the China Triathlon Sports Association, the race course of the Beijing International Triathlon is a possible site for the 2008 Olympic triathlon event. The event is sanctioned by the Asian Triathlon Confederation and will be hosting several World Cup events prior to the 2008 Olympics.

Jr tennis starts

LA CARLOTA—The 2002 Milo Junior Tennis Cup will start here today.

Philippine Tennis Association regional VP vice mayor Rex Jalandoon noted the strong cast of junior netters from Bacolod, Cadiz, Cebu, Dumaguete and host La Carlota in the event organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by adidas and Sports Kids with sanction from Philta.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

POOL: World Professional Pool Championships 2002, Day 8, Semifinals at 10 a.m. on Star Sports and 1:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

GOLF: LPGA Jamie Farr Kroger Classic, Third Round at 7 a.m. on ESPN

PGA John Deere Classic, First Round at 8 a.m. (r), Second Round at 3 p.m. on Star Sports

PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

131st British Open Championship, Third Round at 10 p.m. (r) on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: 2002 F1 Highlights - Mobil 1 French Grand Prix at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

2002 F1 Qualifying - Mobil 1 German Grand Prix at 7 p.m. and midnight on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 1:30 p.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

Letran downs Mapua; Benilde prevails anew

By June Navarro

ENRILE

PINT-SIZED Boyet Bautista's acts of gallantry steered Letran College to a pulsating 76-73 victory over Mapua yesterday in the NCAA varsity basketball wars at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The 5-foot-7 Bautista collared the rebound with seven ticks to go and rifled an outlet pass to swingman Jonathan Aldave who scored and sealed the Knights' third win in five games.

Ronjay Enrile topscored with 24 points while Aldave had 21 for the Knights, who recovered mightily from an 88-75 beating they got from pacesetter College of St. Benilde on Monday.

Earlier, the Blazers manhandled the University of Perpetual Help-Rizal Altas, 82-50, and marched to its fifth straight victory.

Sunday Salvacion sparkled all game long, pumping in 25 points on top of 12 rebounds, four assists and four steals as the Blazers sent the Altas to their third consecutive setback and fourth in five games overall.

First game (srs)

ST. BENILDE 82—Salvacion 25, Capati 20, Magpayo 10, Sagad 7, Tolentino 6, Castro 5, Mendoza 3, Te 2, Orbeta 2, David 2, Coching 0.

UPHR 50—Cosme 13, Cuenco 9, Botin 8, Javier 7, All-all 7, Hawkins 2, Balboa 2, Mulat 2, Tayer 2, Aseron 0, Quiazon 0.

Quarters: 13-11, 39-26, 58-34, 82-50.

Second game (srs)

LETRAN 76—Enrile 24, Aldave 21, Bautista 8, Sta. Cruz 7, Rodriguez 6, Aban 4, Santos 2, Ebajay 2, Reyes 2, Edwards 0, Anabo 0, Ang 0.

MAPUA 73—Sta. Maria 16, Feliciano 15, Dula 9, Bangoy 7, Gonzales 6, Lagar 6, Veranga 5, David 4, Cruz 4, Guevarra 1, Migraso 0, Roxas 0.

Quarters: 24-24, 42-34, 57-50, 76-73

UST tries to stop De La Salle '5'

By Dennis U. Eroa

ARIC del Rosario, University of Santo Tomas' firebrand of a coach, thinks he has found the clue to burst La Salle's bubble in the UAAP basketball tournament.

"We can't beat La Salle inside, that's a fact. We need to double-team their big men," said Del Rosario, author of UST's four-peat in the early '90s. "But we'll have a chance if we gamble on allowing the Archers to take the outside shots."

The defending champion Green Archers meet the Growling Tigers at 4 p.m., after the 2 p.m. clash between University of the East and National University.

La Salle is sharing the lead with arch rival Ateneo with three straight wins, while UST occupies second spot with a 2-1 mark.

The Tigers are fresh from a lopsided 92-75 triumph over the University of the Philippines Maroons, while the Green Archers struggled before subduing the National University Bulldogs, 76-72, last Sunday.

The Tigers, however, are going to take big risks if they will allow the Archers to take the outside shots. Mike Cortez, Joseph Yeo and Mark Cardona are excellent perimeter players. Ren Ren Ritualo, La Salle's hitman, is no longer donning the Archers' jersey.

La Salle coach Franz Pumaren also has no qualms giving his wingmen to shoot. "We're going to take the open shots, period," Pumaren said. He noted that Yeo's triple in the dying seconds gave La Salle the win over NU.

Slotman Alwyn Espiritu, Iago Raterta and Warren de Guzman will battle La Salle's Carlo Sharma, Manny Ramos, Adonis Sta. Maria and Mike Gavino in the shaded area.

Pumaren has successfully rotated his lineup, resting Cortez in favor of rookie Tyrone Tang and getting quality minutes from Mika Vainio and Martin Urra.

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	3	0
Ateneo	3	0
UST	2	1
AdU	1	2
UE	1	2
FEU	1	2
UP	1	2
NU	0	3

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
2 p.m.—UE vs NU
4 p.m.—La Salle vs UST

Beermen halt Turbo Chargers' win-streak

GAMES TODAY (Ynares Center)
3:45 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Sta. Lucia
5:45 p.m.—Alaska vs Ginebra

SAN Miguel Beer snapped Shell Velocity's three-game winning streak with a dominating 93-70 victory to move a win away from barging into the quarterfinals last night in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

Art Long, Nic Belasco and Dorian Peña made a killing inside the paint while Shea Seals shot torridly from the outside as the Beermen picked up their fourth victory in seven games in a standoff with the Talk N Text Phone Pals.

So dominating were the Beermen that they ripped the game apart as early as the second quarter.

Long, Peña and Seals pooled everything they had, actively participating in a monstrous uprising that shoved the Beermen to a huge 53-30 advantage at halftime.

In the second game, Batang Red Bull clobbered the Selecta-RP Team, 75-51, to tighten its grip on the solo lead at 6-1. The Nationals dropped to 2-4.

June Navarro

Forward Taguig downs Pasay

FORWARD Taguig downed Pasay, 93-88, while Hartmann Seigle shocked Spring Cooking Oil, 79-70, Thursday at the start of the 4th Danny Espiritu Invitational Open Cup basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

Powered by Ronnie Cahanding, Rino Magsalin and Bong Magsambol, coach Danny Gavierres' Taguig hoopsters overcame a nine-point halftime deficit to turn back Mayor Peewee Trinidad's Pasay squad. Former PBA star Samboy Lim, Cholo Martin, Manny Mendoza and Tino Pinat scored in double figures as the Hartmann Seigle boys dominated coach Tito Palma's Spring hoopsters from start to finish.

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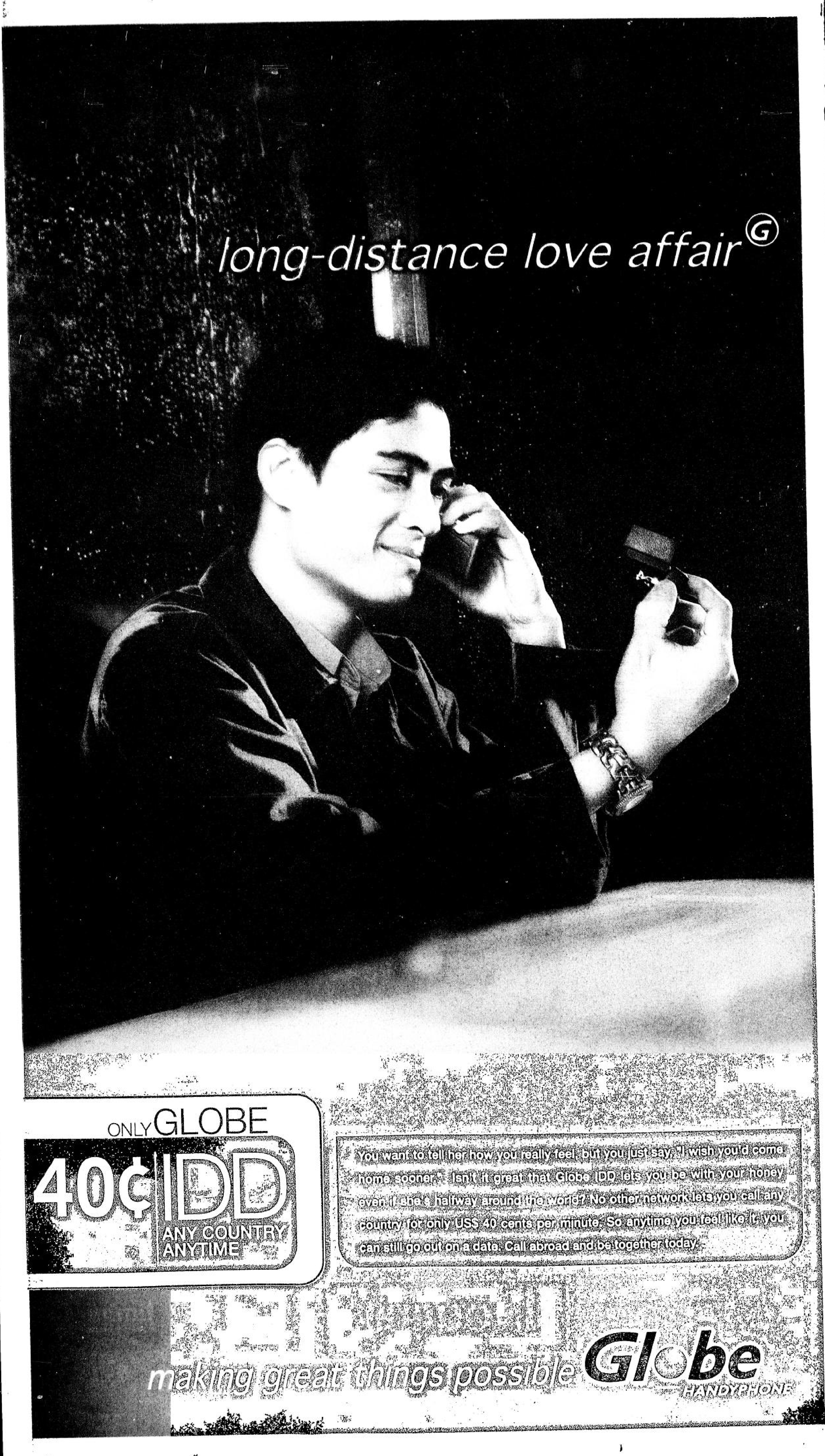
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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Drunken man burns apartment row; 3 killed /A23

MMDA REMOVES EDSA RAILINGS

Abalos slams Fernando

ABALOS

FERNANDO

By Nelson F. Flores and Leila B. Salaverria

"HE (MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando) is only a manager." With that, Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos Jr. yesterday slammed the chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority and declared that what he did "was wrong."

What Fernando did was order the removal of steel railings that the Mandaluyong mayor had put up at the Edsa-Shaw Boulevard crossing.

"Fernando should have coordinated his move with the city government out of respect for the people of Mandaluyong and me as their mayor just like I respect people no matter what their status in life may be," an angry Aba-

ABALOS p. A23

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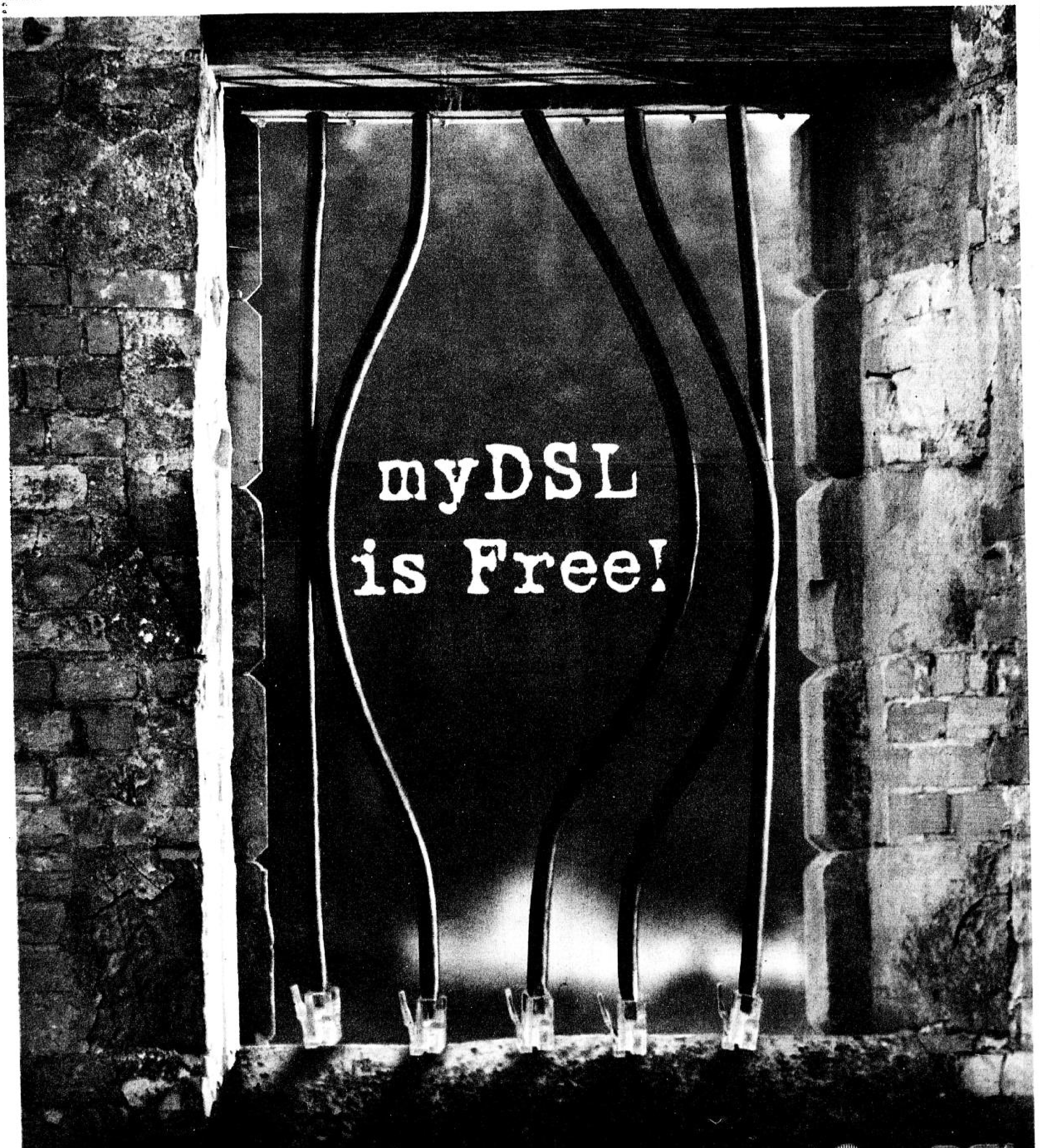

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MOTHER-DAUGHTER KILLINGS

'They were slain in sleep'

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

"THEY were killed while they were sleeping. They did not deserve to go that way."

Johanna Montilla, speaking in Bacolod City, was referring to the killing of her mother Marilou Vasquez, 48, and half-sister Bea Marie, 8, in their house in Parañaque City on Wednesday.

Montilla, 21, belied earlier reports that her mother screamed and was dragged to her bedroom before she was killed. The autopsy report indicated she was sleeping when she was bludgeoned to death, she said.

"The way my mother and sister were killed was so horrible," she said, "but God, in his mysterious ways, has His reasons."

Police found the bodies of Marilou and Bea in the master bedroom of their bungalow in Molave Park, Barangay Moonwalk at about 2 a.m. Wednesday. Mother and daughter had been hammered to death by their two helpers, Michael Andrade, 20 and Dominique Lingayo, 19, police said. The two had been working as drivers in Vasquez's seafood business, police said.

After his arrest, Andrade told police that he and Lingayo were high on drugs when they robbed and killed the victims. He claimed they did not mean to kill Marilou and Bea.

But the daughter in Bacolod City insisted: "There was intention to kill because it was done while my mother and sister were asleep."

Montilla said Andrade had intended to kill her mother because he had been fired from his job two weeks earlier, after Marilou started to suspect that he had been taking shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride).

"If robbery was the motive, why did they take only two cell phones and the wallet of my mother, when there were more valuable things to take from the house," she asked.

"My mom trusted Michael and even said he was like a son to her," she said. "My mom was nice to him and even gave him things."'

The bodies of her mother, a native of Bacolod City, and her sister are lying in state at the Don Bosco Church in Parañaque. They will be buried in Bacolod City.

ERIK ARAZAS

EXTORT COP
PO3 Efraim Garcia is confronted by Western Police District General Assignments Division chief Marcelino Pedroso with the cash he allegedly extorted from vendors along United Nations Avenue near the WPD headquarters.

GMA brings down prices of medicines

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's publicists have failed to highlight one of the major accomplishments of her administration: alleviating poverty by considerably lowering the prices of medicines in the provinces.

It was the President herself who had to trumpet her accomplishment in her State of the Nation Address (Sona). It cheapened the accomplishment, much like a woman saying she is beautiful when somebody else should be saying that for her.

GMA's publicists should get a tongue-lashing from her.

***

Very few people know that basic medicines, which are very expensive in drugstores, can now be bought at pharmacies in government hospitals at a much lower price.

These medicines are antibiotics; anti-hypertensive (for high blood pressure); anti-inflammatory; anti-diabetic; anti-anginal (for heart patients); bronchodilators (for those suffering from asthma); anti-cholesterol agents; and anti-diarrhea. These medicines are the most commonly prescribed by doctors.

For example, an Adalat Retard, 20 mg tablet, which is a maintenance medicine for hypertension, is P36.25 in drug stores. You know how much government hospitals in the provinces sell this medicine? Only P5.75 each, a price difference of 84 percent!

***

How was the GMA administration able to bring down considerably the prices of basic medicines?

By importing these medicines from India. Medicines sold by multinational companies in India are much, much cheaper than those sold here. Why? Because there is intense competition among multinational drug companies in India, and thus, the competing drug firms have to bring down the prices of their medicines.

In this country, there is a drug cartel. A medicine sold by a pharmaceutical company is sold at the same price by rival drug companies.

***

Many deaths among the poor are attributable to the high cost of medicines. Poor patients cannot afford to buy the medicines prescribed by doctors.

Why are the prices of medicines prohibitive in this country?

Because pharmaceutical companies spend millions advertising or promoting their products. Because drug companies spend millions sponsoring doctors' conventions and trips abroad. Because they spend millions on raffles where houses and cars are major prizes for the benefit of doctors.

So, multinational drug companies in the country add those costs to the prices of their products.

***

The government imports basic medicines from India through the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC). PITC is an agency under the Department of Trade and Industry.

Importation of inexpensive medicines from India is a brainchild of Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas, one of GMA's bright boys.

Below are examples of medicines sold very cheap at government hospitals, their

TITLE/ p. C23

Baby needs help

DIZON

ANDREI Kenneth Dizon, only six months old, has been in and out of the Philippine Children's Medical Center in Quezon City for congenital hydrocephalus.

Doctors at the Children's Medical Center said Andrei needs a "12-mm high-pressure VP shunt."

The shunt costs P15,625.

Andrei is the youngest of the four children of Alex Dizon, of Rizal Avenue Extension, Tondo, Manila, who had lost his job as a factory worker.

Readers who would like to help Andrei may send donations to the Children's Medical, or to the Inquirer's Corporate Communications Office.

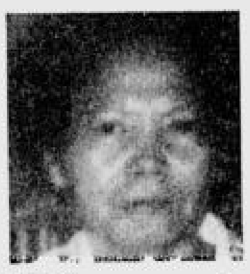
Orthodontics

DR. ABOU Bakr M. Rabie, an associate professor of the University of Hong Kong, will give the keynote speech at the Association of Philippine Orthodontists' 3rd National Congress on Aug. 5-7 at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati.

Dr. Rabie, who is also director of the Bone Research Group, has given courses on adult orthodontics, esthetic dentistry and interceptive and surgical orthodontics.

The congress will discuss the total team approach to patient care involving all disciplines of dentistry.

More information may be obtained by calling the APO secretariat at 815-1122 or 892-6106 or by visiting the website, www.apo.com.ph.



RULE

Missing

RAQUEL T. Rule, 70, has been missing since July 21, 2002. If you know where she is, please call Rachel Rule at the Holy Family Parish in BF Almanza, Las Piñas, 801-4919 or 800-6661, or at the Quintos Law Office, 806-7592.

Ramos rite

A NECROLOGICAL service for the late Julieta Maniaul Ramos will be held at 8 a.m. today at the Cosmopolitan Church on Taft Avenue before her interment at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina. Ms Ramos, former head of the personnel division of the Philippine National Construction Corp., died last Monday. Surviving her are her husband Severino Ramos; daughter Grace; grandchildren Gladys and Ian; sisters Luz M. Garcia, Rebecca M. Maramba and Josefina M. Majaba; brother-in-law Francisco Majaba and other relatives. Her other sisters, now deceased, were Pacita M. Yambot, Mercedes M. Diaz and Iluminada M. Ramos.

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MEGIDDO - P13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT - P13 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	MEN IN BLACK 2 - P13 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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2	SORORITY BOYS	MINORITY REPORT	THE YIN-YANG MASTER	MEN IN BLACK 2 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	MEN IN BLACK II
3	MEGGIDO	MEN IN BLACK 2 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 12:00		POWERPUFF GIRLS 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	SORORITY BOYS
4	DOG SOLDIERS	LIFE OR SOMETHING...	HOTDOG & BOYFRIENDS JULY 26 & 27 9-PM	AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	MEGGIDO
5		HIGH CRIMES		THIRD WHEEL 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	THE THIRD WHEEL
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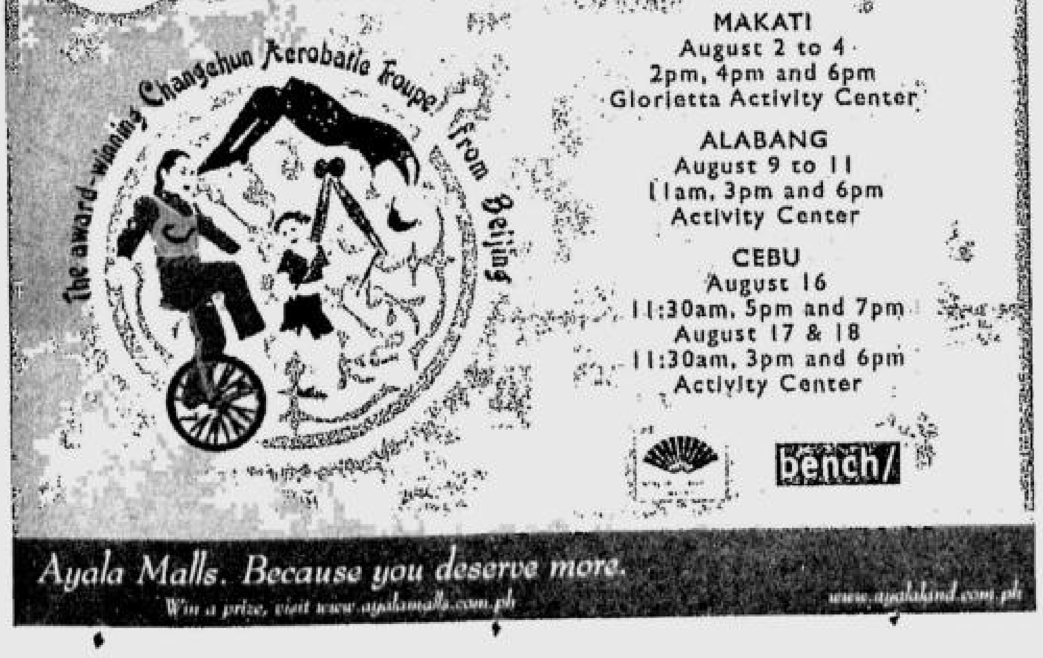
Aar Paar	3:30 pm	Mr. & Mrs. 55	3:30 pm	Baazi	3:30 pm
Baazi	6:30 pm	Pyaasa	6:30 pm	Kaagaz ke Phool	6:30 pm
Baazi	9:30 pm	Pyaasa	9:30 pm	Kaagaz ke Phool	9:30 pm

July 29 (MON)		July 30 (TUE)		July 31 (WED)	
Pyaasa	12:30 pm	Kaagaz ke Phool	12:30 pm	Pyaasa	12:30 pm
Pyaasa	3:30 pm	Kaagaz ke Phool	3:30 pm	Pyaasa	3:30 pm
Aar Paar	6:30 pm	Mr. & Mrs. 55	6:30 pm	Baazi	6:30 pm
Aar Paar	9:30 pm	Mr. & Mrs. 55	9:30 pm	Baazi	9:30 pm

A RETROSPECTIVE OF GURU DUTT



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Drunken man burns apartments; 3 killed

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO SISTERS and their 13-year-old niece were scorched to death after a drunken man set fire to a row of apartments in Las Piñas City early yesterday morning, police said.

The charred bodies of Lourdes Chokiló, 65, her sister Zenaida Velos, 50, and their niece Aiza de los Angeles, 13, were found in the ruins of their apartment unit on Champaca Street in Paramount Village, Barangay Talon 3 about 1 a.m. yesterday, according to SFO1 Gerardo Porley.

Policemen are looking for jeepney driver Reynaldo Abayon who allegedly started the fire shortly after midnight in a unit of Chokilo's apartments that he was renting.

Neighbors said that about 8 p.m. Thursday, they smelled LPG fumes coming from Abayon's apartment after he had a heated argument with his wife Arlene, Porley said.

The investigator was told that Abayon usually nagged his wife whenever he was drunk.

Another tenant, Eduardo Ignacio, went to Abayon's house and saw him holding a cigarette and a box of match sticks while standing in front of an LPG tank, investigation showed.

Ignacio said he immediately took the tank out of the house.

About four hours later, when most of the neighbors were asleep, huge flames suddenly burst from Abayon's apartment, Porley said.

The flames immediately engulfed six other small apartments owned by Chokilo. The fire reached the third alarm before firefighters put it out at 1:05 a.m.

Abayon and his wife were nowhere to be found after the fire that destroyed at least P700,000 in property.

Abalos . . .

From p. A21

los said.

But Fernando said Abalos might have been confused about the clearing of sidewalk obstructions in the metropolis. The MMDA man assigned to the area, Fernando said, did not report for work yesterday.

He also said that he and the younger Abalos had already talked things out between them, with Fernando explaining the MMDA policy on sidewalk obstructions.

"*Nagkaintindihan na kami. Ipinaliwanag ko na sa kanya* (We've cleared things up. I've already explained my side to him)," the MMDA chair said yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, Abalos had said that "even without the question of respect, what the MMDA did was wrong for it involved the destruction of public property which was bought and built by the city government using the people's money."

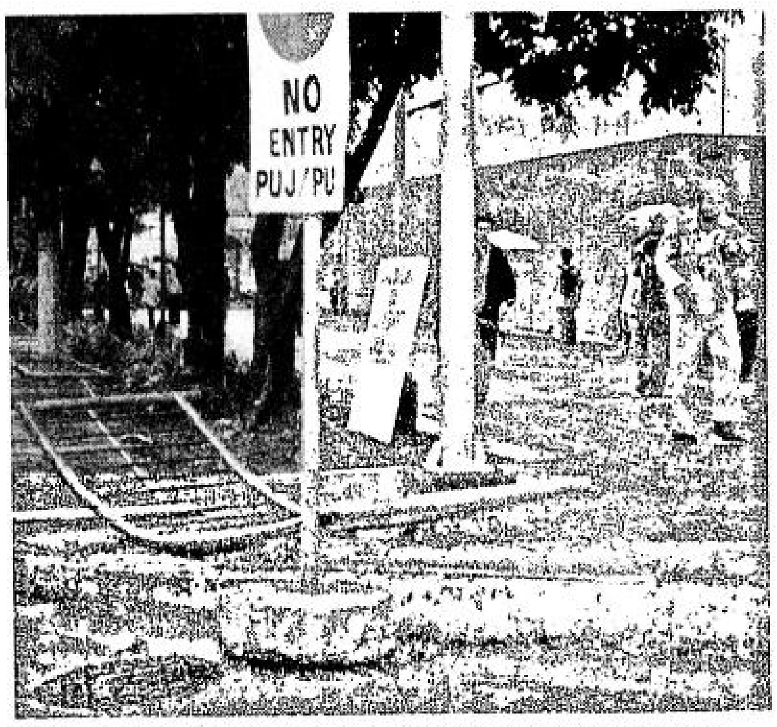
Abalos, who learned of the tearing down of the railings after noon, stressed that the railings were not obstructions but legal structures set up for people's safety.

He said putting up the railings cost the city government about P500,000.

Abalos ordered the arrest of the 11 workers who removed the pedestrian railings.

"I ordered them to return the railings that they removed," he said. "Otherwise I will be forced to file malicious mischief charges against them."

He said he does not oppose the MMDA plans to develop Metro Manila into a better place but he noted that these plans must first be discussed with and approved by the Metro Mayors Council. He reminded Fernando that the council is the policy making body of the MMDA and that Fernando's mandate is to oversee the implementation of the approved policies.



THE Edsa-Shaw Boulevard crossing railings that threaten to tear down the ties between Fernando and Abalos.

GMA brings . . .

From p. A22

prices in those hospitals, and the prices in the market.

Drug	Gov't price	Market price
Bactrim 400/80 mg tab	2.80	13.50
Adalat Retard 20 mg	5.75	36.25
Ponstan	5.40	11.00
Daonil 5 mg tablet	3.10	7.75
Isordil 5 mg tablet	2.60	10.40
Lopid 300 mg capsules	19.15	34.50
Bricanyl 2.5 mg	3.60	7.50
Buscopan 20 mg	28.60	66.00
Tegrital 200 mg	6.05	13.50

***

Bactrim is an antibiotic; Adalat is for hypertension; Ponstan is for inflammation; Daonil, for diabetes; Isordil, for heart disease; Lopid, for anti-cholesterol; Bricanyl, for asthma; Buscopan, for diarrhea; Tegrital, for epilepsy.

***

Multinational drug companies in the country are reportedly complaining about the "unfair competition" posed by imported medicines from India.

The heck with them! There's nothing they can do but lower the cost of their products.

GMA should shop around for a new health secretary and a new director of the Bureau of Food and Drugs to replace the current ones who are apparently protecting the interests of multinational firms instead of those of poor patients.

***

Two helpers bludgeoned and stabbed to death their female employer and her 8-year-old daughter after robbing them. They were high on drugs.

Only insane people could have committed that savagery on an innocent girl. Drugs, especially methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu," make people insane.

Drug pushers and traffickers, the sources of the dangerous drug, should be executed without the benefit of a court trial.

***

Lawyers who say that Sonny Parsons committed homicide or murder when he ran after robbers who barged into his house should be reminded of the citizen's arrest doctrine.

Parsons did not commit a crime because he killed two of the robbers and wounded another in self defense.

When he ran after the robbers and caught up with them outside his home, he was making a citizen's arrest. Under this doctrine, a citizen who witnesses a crime being committed in his presence can arrest the perpetrator.

Since the suspects tried to shoot him while they were being arrested, Parsons had to defend himself by shooting back.

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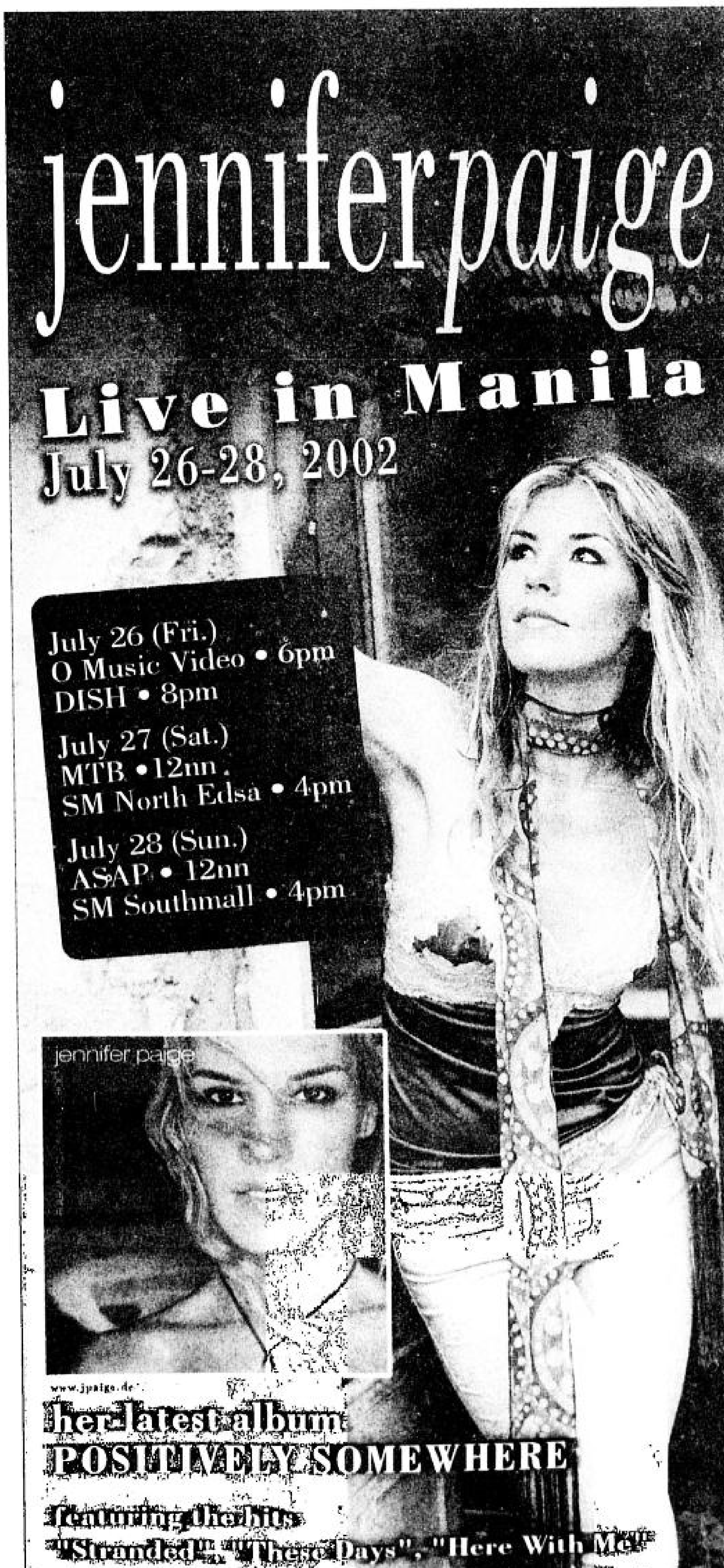
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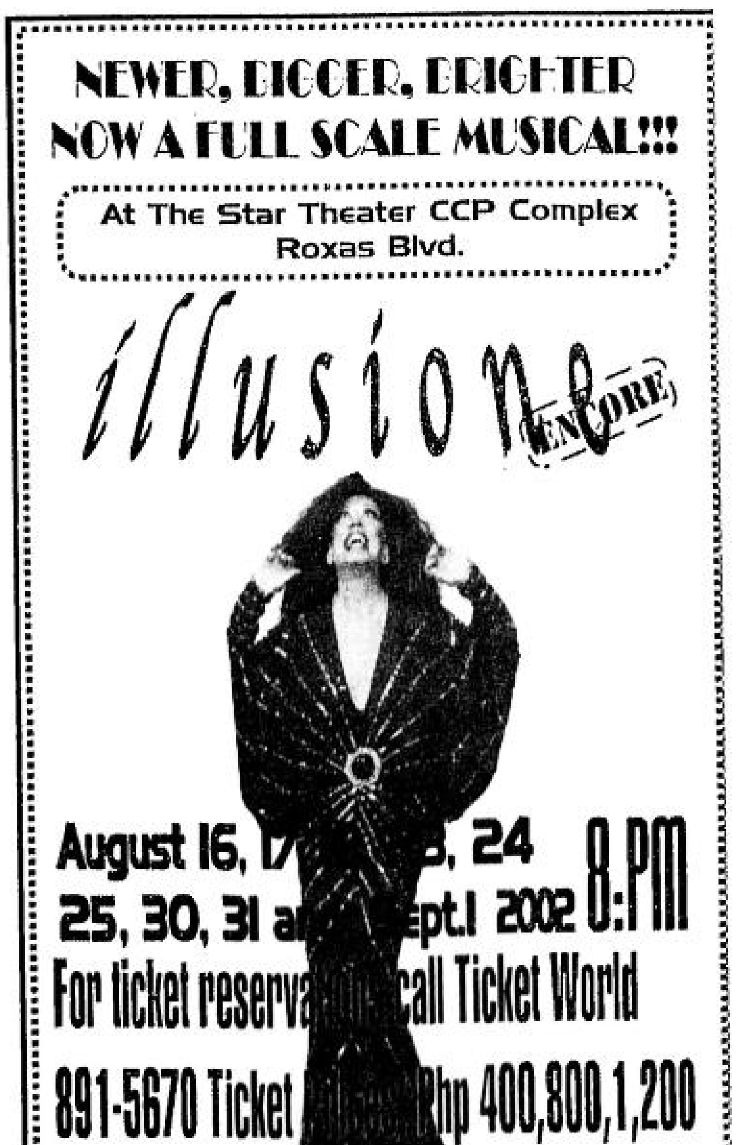
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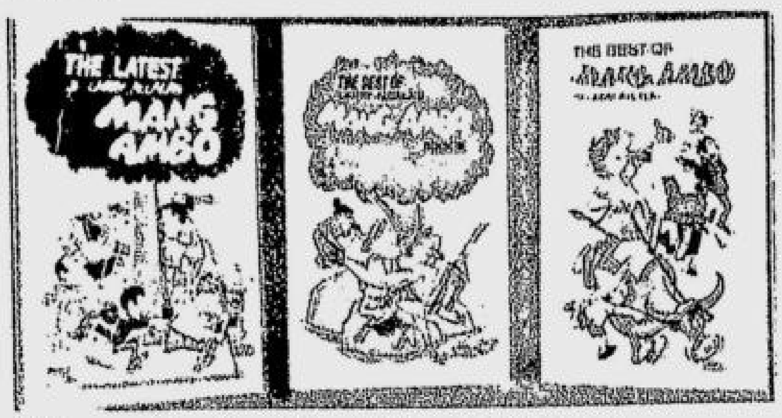


'Mang Ambo' by 'Mang' Larry

FOLLOWERS of the late noted cartoonist Larry Alcala can now fully enjoy his works in ``The Latest of Larry Alcala's Mang Ambo" and ``The Best of Larry Alcala's Mang Ambo 1 & 2," compilations of his popular comic strips, published by New Day Publisher. Mang Ambo was one of Alcala's enduring characters.

One of the country's foremost illustrators, Alcala is best known for his "Slice of Life" cartoon which appeared in various publications from the 1970s to the 1990s.

New Day Publishers has also published compilations of the comic strips ``Simo" by Edgar Dionela, ``Pugad Baboy" by Pol Medina Jr., which are both in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and ``Pupung" by Tonton Young, in the Manila Bulletin.

The books are available at leading bookstores nationwide. For inquiries, call New Day Publishers at 928-8046 or 927-5982.

Bacoor to open 'smell-friendly' facility

By Joven S. Joya, Contributor

ONCE tagged as a stinking town due to its uncollected wastes, Bacoor, Cavite may well hold the key to solving the nation's garbage problems.

The thickly populated coastal town is set to open any day next month its new garbage facility capable of handling all of Cavite's wastes and of processing a large portion of them into organic fertilizers.

Built as a component of the town's integrated environmental park, the Bacoor Material Recovery Facility and Composting Plant (BMRFCP), according to Mayor Jessie B. Castillo, ``is the first of its kind in the country to be put up by a municipality or city on a grand scale."

Castillo said the composting centers that some cities and towns in Metro Manila have already set up cater to only between 500 and 1,000 households, mostly those inside subdivisions, and do not service the whole city or town.

CASTILLO

The Bacoor system, Castillo added, is smell-friendly. ``When operational, our facility will process wastes without emitting fould odor," he said.

Castillo said the BMRFCP can handle more than his town's daily collection of 150 tons of wastes. ``In fact, it can take care of all of Cavite's daily garbage volume of 1,500 tons."

Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez, who is also chair of the National Solid Waste Commission, said the Bacoor garbage facility conforms ``with the objectives of Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000."

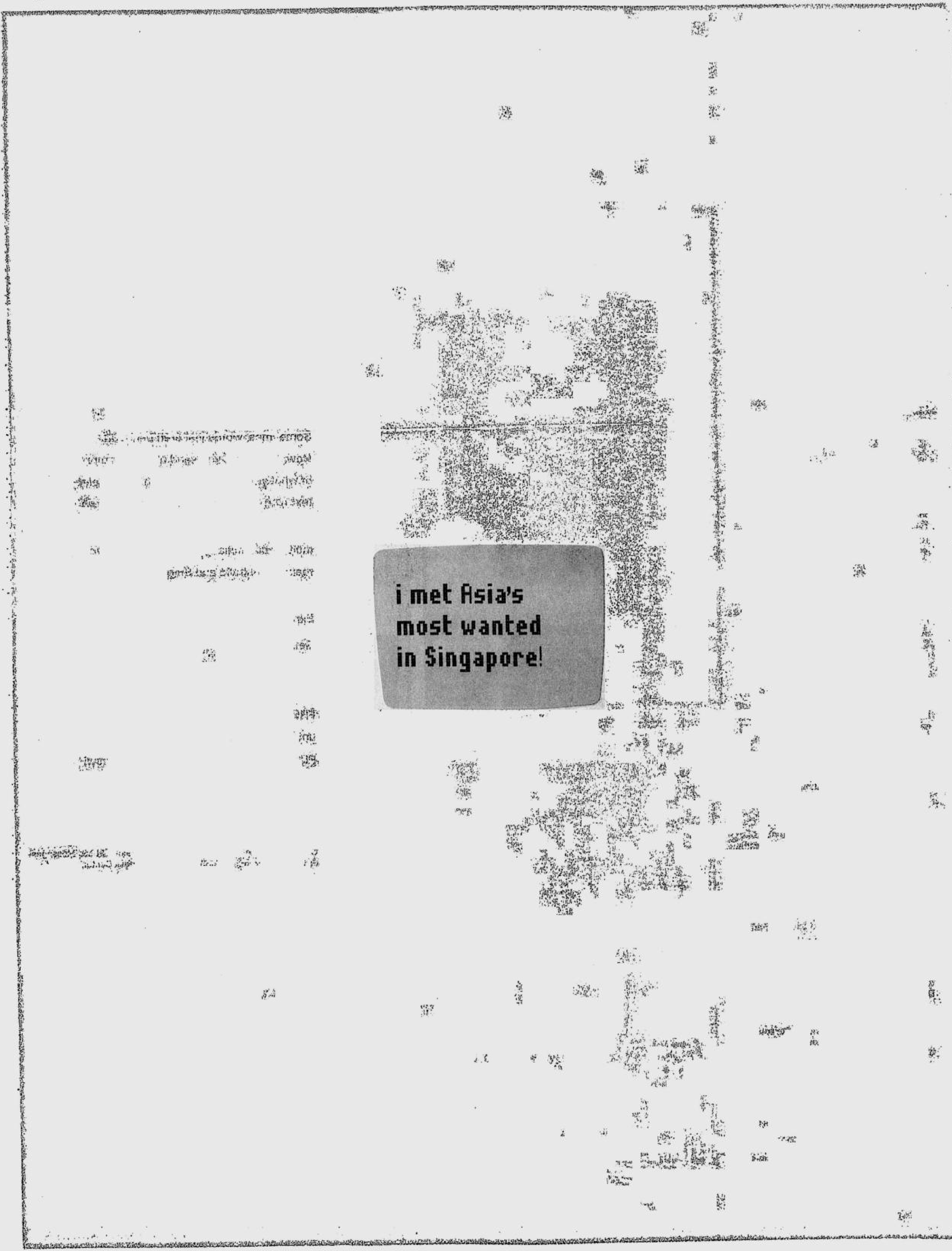
By processing biodegradable garbage into organic fertilizers through composting, the Bacoor system does away with the use of landfills or incineration to dispose of garbage.

After segregation, non-biodegradable wastes will be quickly sold for recycling following strict standards set by Mother Earth Foundation and the Recycling Movement of the Philippines, Castillo said.

He explained that the process of segregation will be done by about 400 people working in 16 hours in two shifts. ``The non-biodegradable wastes are quickly picked up by hands and thrown aside while the biodegradable are allowed to roll all the way to the hammer mills where they are finely pounded. Then the ground wastes are stored in 40-foot container vans for treatment."

Cavite Gov. Ayong S. Maliksi lauded Castillo and his officials for ``focusing their collective effort and resources on a workable solution to one of the country's ``worst problems."

Maliksi said other local officials should look up to Bacoor as ``a role model in the proper management of wastes."



Makati businessman accused of defrauding oil distributor

By Leila B. Salaverria

MAKATI police arrested a businessman on Thursday for allegedly defrauding an oil distributor of P59 million.

Judge Romeo Barza of Makati Regional Trial Court branch 61 issued the warrant for the arrest of Neil Digman, 32, manager of Prime Asia Sales and Services.

Digman was arrested 4 p.m. in his office at the Antel 2000 building on Ayala Avenue, Makati City, and was later released when he posted bail of P40,000, said Senior Insp. Silvio Mamaid.

There is also a standing warrant for Digman's wife Erma, but Mamaid said they were not able to arrest her because she was reportedly out of town.

Reynaldo Cipriano, 50, a Caltex distributor from Sucat, Parañaque, said he sued Digman because he failed to pay him P42 million worth of fuel. The complainant said Digman also did not pay back the P17 million Cipriano gave him as capital for a pyramid scheme involving the purchase and sale of petroleum products.

According to Cipriano, he and Digman signed a memorandum of agreement last year for a business scheme where, every month, Digman was supposed to pay him back 7 percent of the money he invested, as well as the principal amount. Cipriano said he also has the option to withdraw the money he invested anytime.

In his complaint, Cipriano said Digman faithfully remitted money to him for the first few months. This encouraged Cipriano to keep on investing. But last December, Digman's payments stopped coming, said the oil distributor.

He said he was able to talk to Digman several times, but the latter still did not settle his debts.

Antipolo to oppose landfill

By Nelson F. Flores

ANTIPOLO City government officials yesterday said they would vigorously oppose any move to reopen the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill which was closed two years ago due to the health risks it posed to residents of the city and Rizal province.

Antipolo information officer Ofel Aure said Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan is firm in his stand to oppose any move to reopen the controversial SMSL.

She said Gatlabayan is convinced that the reopening of the SMSL will cause health problems for city residents and those in San Mateo town.

Aure said the city government will take all legal remedies to thwart any plan to reopen the SMSL.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando recently met with Rizal Gov. Rebecca Ynares and other provincial officials to explore the possibility of reopening the SMSL.

Fernando said Rizal would greatly benefit from the reopening of the SMSL because there are no dumpsites anywhere in the province.

"We are conducting exploratory talks," Fernando said. "We are trying to convince the officials of Rizal to reconsider."

During the meeting, Fernando reportedly offered the provincial government free rein to operate and control the dumpsite as an "incentive for its reopening."

He also allegedly offered to pay the provincial government for use of the facility, even though the MMDA owns it.

The SMSL was closed in 2000 following a series of public protests over the environmental damage it allegedly caused in San Mateo and other Rizal towns.

The move to reopen SMSL may jeopardize the case Rodriguez town filed against the MMDA.

The Rodriguez municipal government is seeking payment for the use of the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility, which was built last year to ease the garbage crisis in Metro Manila. Metro Manila turned the MSWDF into its primary dumpsite in January.

Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo earlier threatened to close the MSWDF and plunge Metro Manila into another crisis should the MMDA fail to setter its P46 million obligation to his municipality.

But he refused to comment on Fernando's proposal to reopen the SMSL.

Cuerpo told the Inquirer that he may be forced to close the 14,000-hectare MSWDF on July 31 because he no longer has any funds to continue its operation. He said the MMDA and the national government have neglected their obligations to Rodriguez.

Cuerpo cited the MMDA's failure to settle its P46 million debt to the municipal government despite repeated demands.

He added that the Manila City government also owes the municipal government and, like the MMDA', has failed to settle its obligation amounting to P54 million.

"The debts is comprised of unpaid dumping fees and other services," Cuerpo said.

Cuerpo said the national government only released P15 million of the P119 million development assistance for Rodriguez town in exchange for the operation of the dumpsite which opened on Jan. 17.

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2	BAD COMPANY
3	SELDA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	SELDA
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SUGAT
2	KAPALIT
3	BAD COMPANY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	POWERPUFF GIRLS
3	MONSTER BALL
4	A WALK TO REMEMBER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	HIGH CRIMES
2	KAPALIT
3 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
4	BIG FAT LIAR

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL

"EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS"

Starring: DAVID ARQUETTE

R TIME : 1:35 RATING : PG - 13

DATE : JULY 29 - 30 (Monday & Tuesday)

THEATERS

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GOTESCO GRAND CENTRAL	METROPOLIS ALABANG
GOTESCO COMMONWEALTH	TARGET MALL STA. ROSA
GOTESCO ORTIGAS	PAVILION - BIÑAN
CINERAMA	WALTERMART - CALAMBA
MARKET PLACE	FIESTA WORLD LIPA
STAR MALL	LIANAS - CALAMBA
MASAGANA - PASAY	OLIVAREZ - BIÑAN
PREMIERE THX	OLIVAREZ - LOS BAÑOS
ALI MALL	

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	DOG SOLDIERS
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	MEN IN BLACK II
4	SORORITY BOYS
5	MEGIDDO
6	KAPALIT
7	FRUIT IS SWELLING
8	FOREVERMORE

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	DOG SOLDIERS
3	MEGIDDO
4	THE THIRD WHEEL
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	KAPALIT
7	MEN IN BLACK 2
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	MINORITY REPORT
10	FOREVERMORE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	BAD COMPANY
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	HIGH CRIMES
4	MEN IN BLACK II
5	MEGIDDO
6	FOREVERMORE
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	DOG SOLDIERS
9	KAPALIT
10	MEN IN BLACK II
11	SUGAT
12	HANGGANG KAILAN . . .

SM CITY MANILA
5238240

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	MEGIDDO
5	DOG SOLDIERS
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	BIG FAT LIAR
8	HIGH CRIMES
9	CASS & CARY
10	FOREVERMORE
11	KAPALIT
12	MINORITY REPORT

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	THIRD WHEEL
3	MEGIDDO
4	MEN IN BLACK II
5	DOG SOLDIERS
6	HIGH CRIMES
7	FOREVERMORE
8	BIG FAT LIAR
9	SORORITY BOYS
10	MINORITY REPORT
11	SUM OF ALL FEARS
12	CASS & CARY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9285452

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	KAPALIT
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	DOG SOLDIERS
7	MEGIDDO
8	MEN IN BLACK II

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	THIRD WHEEL
3	MEN IN BLACK II
4	DOG SOLDIERS
5	HIGH CRIMES
6	HANGGANG KAILAN . . .
7	KAPALIT
8	MEN IN BLACK II
9	MINORITY REPORT
10	MEGIDDO

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	JUST VISITING
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	BIG FAT LIAR
5	POWERPUFF GIRLS
6	CROSSROADS
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	MEN IN BLACK II

SM CITY ILOILO
3208422

1	JUST VISITING
2	CLOSED
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
5	KAPALIT
6	MEN IN BLACK II
7	CLOSED
8	A WALK TO REMEMBER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
3	BIG FAT LIAR
4	CASS & CARY
5	KATAWAN MO . . .
6	HIGH CRIMES

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	DOG SOLDIERS
4	MEGIDDO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	MEGIDDO
4	DOG SOLDIERS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
2	KAPALIT
3	BIG FAT LIAR
4	JUST VISITING
5	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
6	MEN IN BLACK 2

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
6369781-85 loc 120

1	MEN IN BLACK II 10:00 FS / 10:30 MF / 12:35 / 2:40 / 4:45 / 6:50 / 8:55 / 11:00 LMF / 12:30 END
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1 THX	MEN IN BLACK II
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	SORORITY BOYS
5	MEGIDDO
6	DOG SOLDIER
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	HIGH CRIMES
9	BAD COMPANY
10	KAPALIT

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	DOG SOLDIER
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	SORORITY BOYS
4	THIRD WHEEL
5	MINORITY REPORT
6	KAPALIT
7	MEGIDDO

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	THIRD WHEEL
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	MEGIDDO
5	HIGH CRIMES
6	DOG SOLDIER
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	KAPALIT

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	RESERVED
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	HIGH CRIMES
5	MEGIDDO
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	DOG SOLDIER
8	SORORITY BOYS

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	MEGIDDO
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	DOG SOLDIER
4	MEN IN BLACK II
5	FRUIT IS SWELLING
6	HANGGANG KAILAN . . .

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
4	JUST VISITING
5	ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS
6	SLACKRES

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
2	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
3	MEN IN BLACK
4	KAPALIT
5	JUST VISITING
6	AMELIE

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 / 961-5318 / 5270

1	KATAWAN
2	BIG FAT LIAR
3	HIGH CRIMES
4	MEN IN BLACK II
5	ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS
6	RESERVED

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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Cops question promotions

By Tina Santos

POLICEMEN from stations in the Camanava (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela) area, who were not promoted have questioned the promotion of some of their colleagues in the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) and the Western Police District (WPD).

The Camanava policemen said they had risked their lives in defending Malacanang from supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada on May 1 last year.

The disgruntled cops, who requested not to be identified, are now urging President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to expedite their own promotion.

They also called on high-ranking officials of the Philippine National Police to hasten the processing of their papers, adding that several of their colleagues in WPD and NCRPO have already been promoted even if most of them had nothing to do with crowd dispersal operations.

"How come they were promoted when many of them were locked up in their offices while we were guarding the roads leading to the Palace?" one of the Camanava officers said. "Most of them were not even seen on Mendiola at the time of Erap loyalists' assault."

They insisted that they are the ones who are "loyal to the administration till the end." But they also admitted that some 20 policemen from the Northern Police District (NPD) have been promoted.

"It's not fair that they were promoted ahead of us when the NPD and the Camanava policemen were used as front liners during the attack," the officer said.

He and the others said they are hoping they would have been a rank higher by next month.

The Omnibus Election Code suspended promotions until the end of July because of the the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections last July 15.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MEN IN BLACK 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MEGIDDO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	DOG SOLDIERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	HIGH CRIMES
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN/ SENSUAL FEELING
ODEON	MEGIDDO
ODEON-2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT / WE WERE SOLDIER
ROBEN	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO / DEVILS MASK
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
REMAR	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
REMAR-2	SUGAT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-2	KAPALIT
CINEMA-3	HANGGANG KAILAN AKO PAPATAY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	POWERPUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-6	HIYAS SA PARAISO
CINEMA-7	SELDA
CINEMA-8	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-12	MEGIDDO
CINEMA-14	DOG SOLDIERS
CINEMA-15	MINORITY REPORT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-2	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-4	MEGIDDO
CINEMA-5	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
CINEMA-6	MEN IN BLACK 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING
INVITATIONAL PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
on July 27, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 1
Regular showing on July 31 at the SM CINEMAS.
MTRCB RATING: GP
Simultaneously shown at
SM Pampanga
STUART LITTLE 2

Hate spiders?
They don't like you either!
EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
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THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 MEN IN BLACK 2
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
P 13
2 MEGIDDO
11:40, 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:45
P 13
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

MUSIC MUSEUM
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2ND ' SUPER ADVENTURE ' WEEK !
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.
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(NOT THAT CLOSE)

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THE ONLY WAY TO BECOME ONE OF THE BOYS AGAIN...
IS TO BECOME ONE OF THE GIRLS.
Touchstone Pictures
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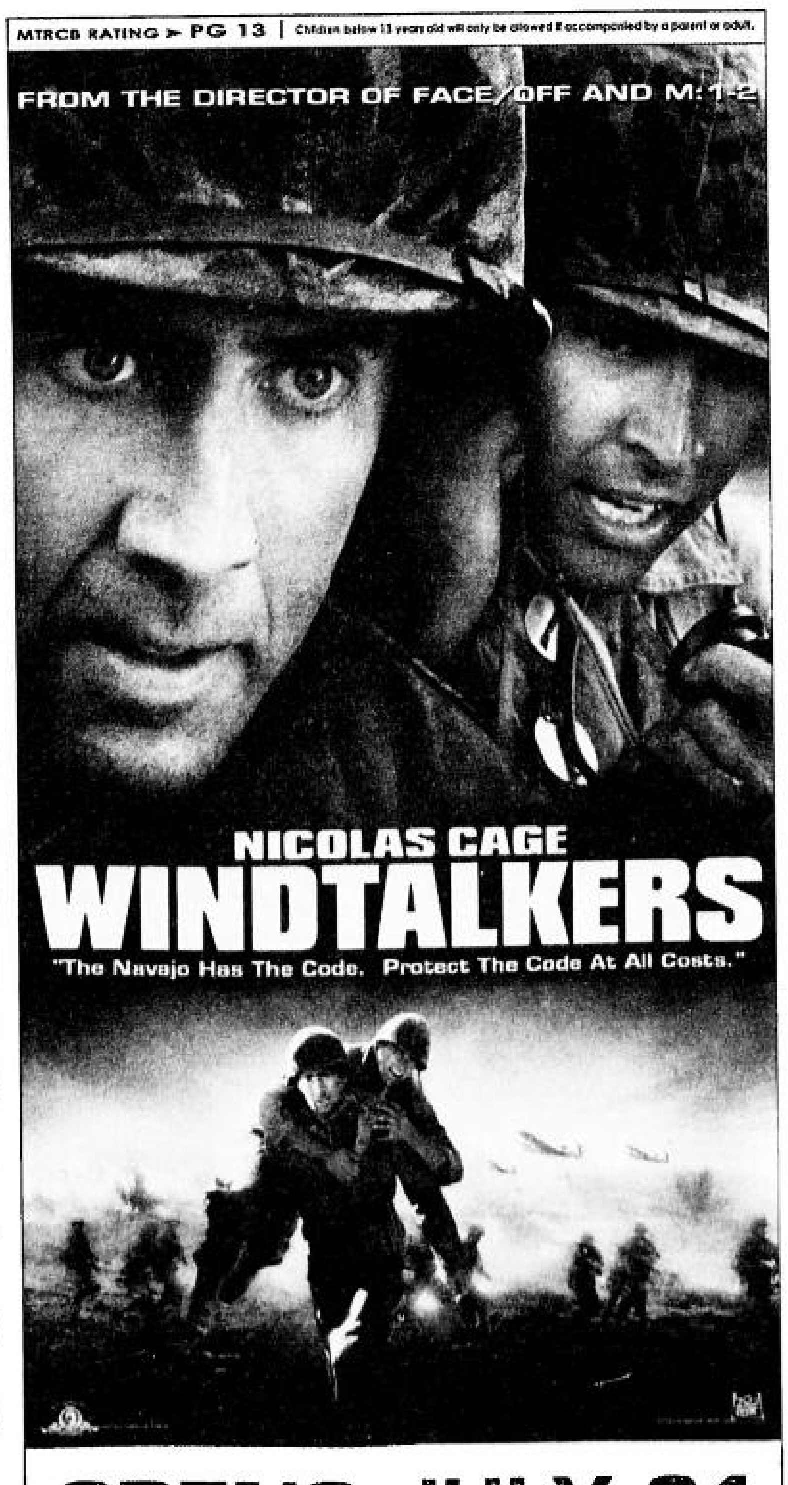
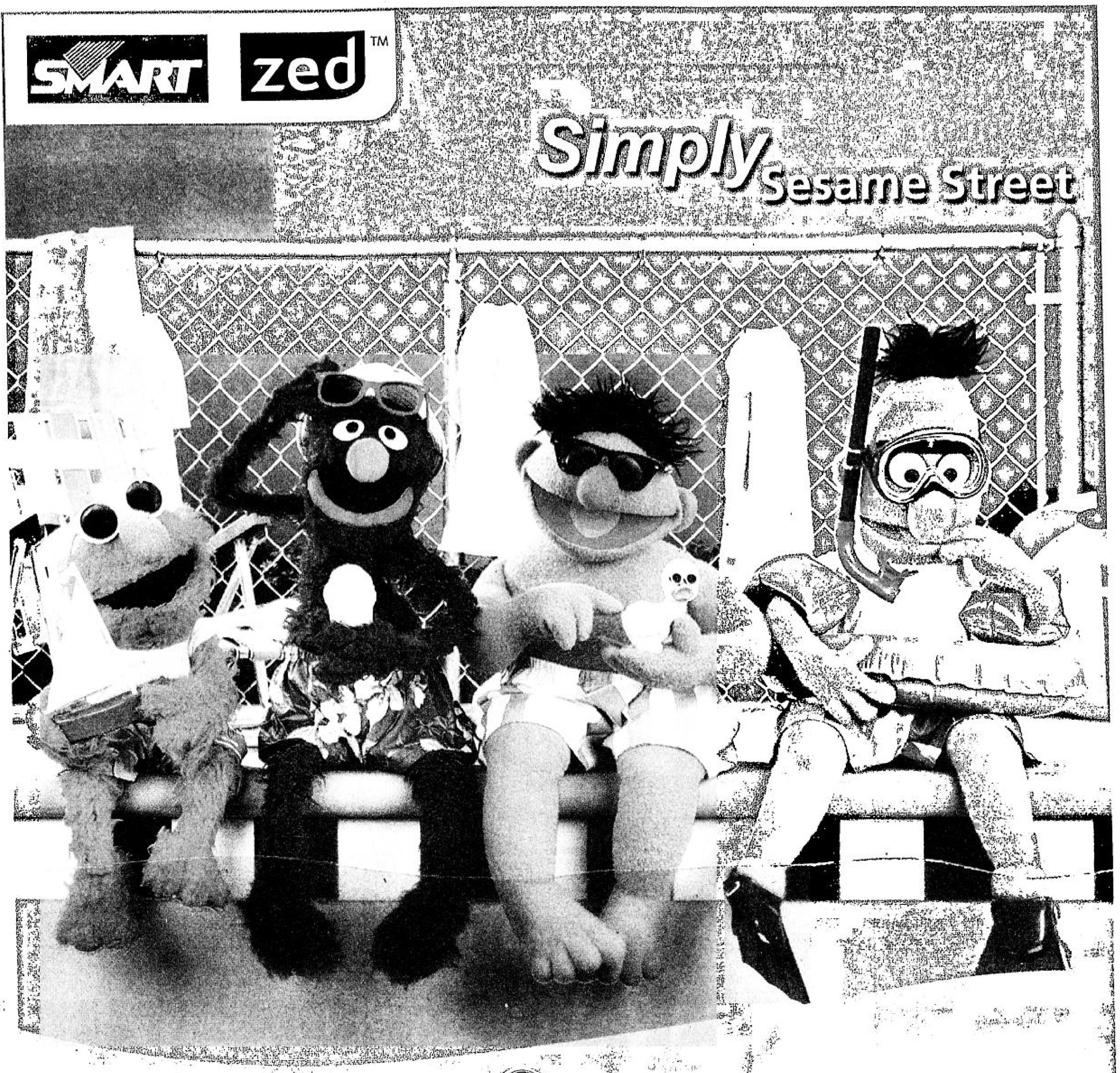
Highly Recommended Family Entertainment!
BIG ADVENTURE BEGINS JULY 31
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
This Season
A Little Goes A Long Way

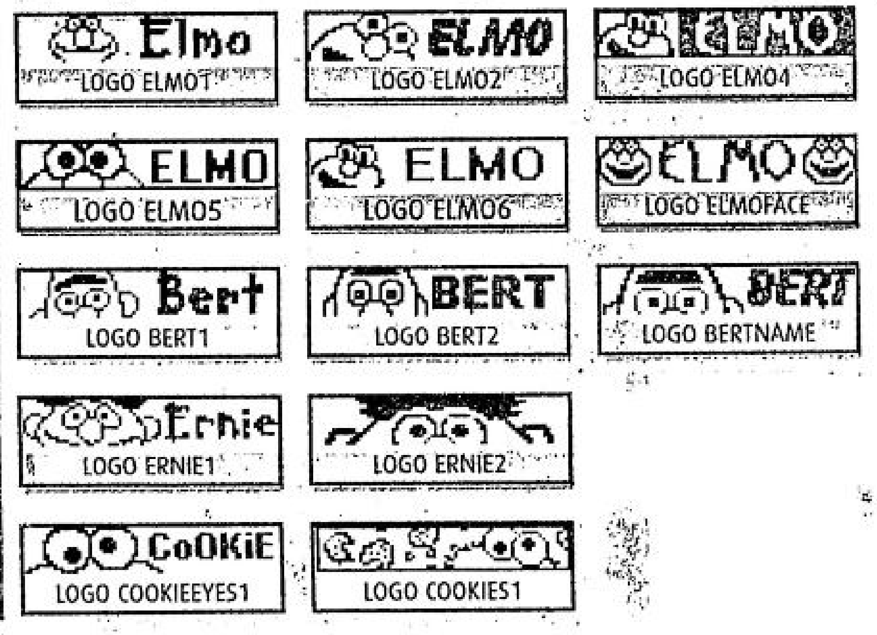
STUART LITTLE 2
StuartLittle.com
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FACE/OFF AND M:I-2

NICOLAS CAGE
WINDTALKERS
"The Navajo Has The Code. Protect The Code At All Costs."
OPENS JULY 31



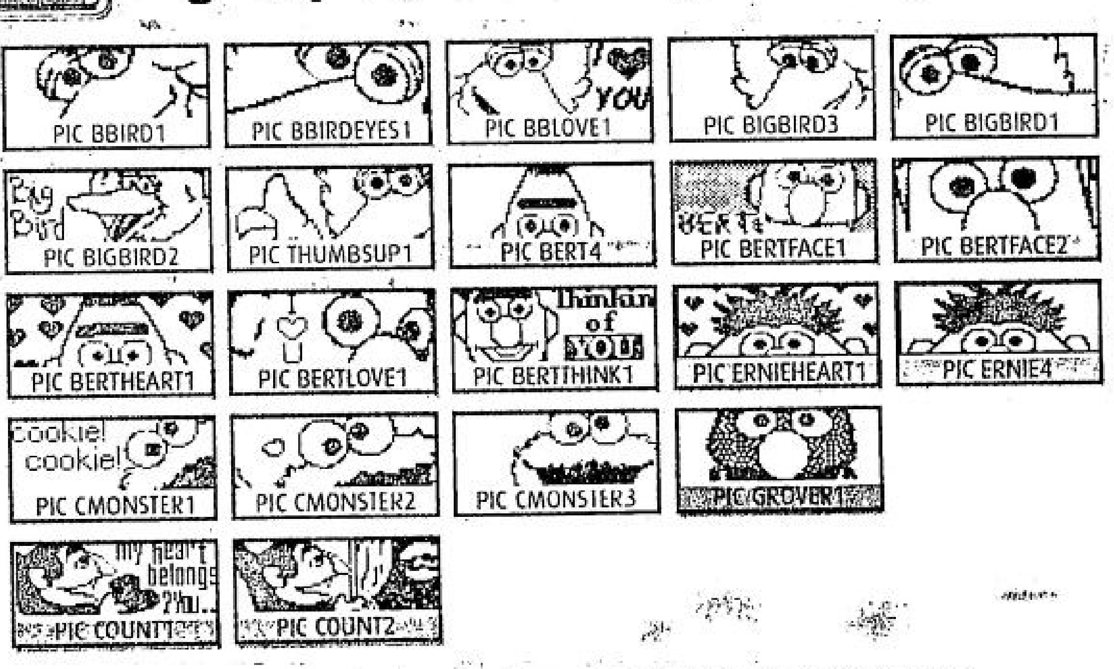
Jump into the fun with these SESAME STREET logos, picture messages & ringtones.

LOGOS



- LOGO ELMO1
- LOGO ELMO2
- LOGO ELMO4
- LOGO ELMO5
- LOGO ELMO6
- LOGO ELMOFACE
- LOGO BERT1
- LOGO BERT2
- LOGO BERTNAME
- LOGO ERNIE1
- LOGO ERNIE2
- LOGO COOKIEEYES1
- LOGO COOKIES1

PICTURE MESSAGES

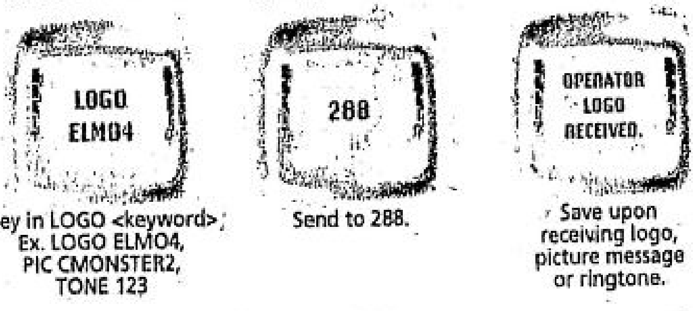


- PIC BBIRD1
- PIC BBIRDEYES1
- PIC BBLOVE1
- PIC BIGBIRD3
- PIC BIGBIRD1
- PIC BIGBIRD2
- PIC THUMBSUP1
- PIC BERT4
- PIC BERTFACE1
- PIC BERTFACE2
- PIC BERTHEART1
- PIC BERTLOVE1
- PIC BERTTHINK1
- PIC ERNIEHEART1
- PIC ERNIE4
- PIC CMONSTER1
- PIC CMONSTER2
- PIC CMONSTER3
- PIC GROVER1
- PIC COUNT1
- PIC COUNT2

RINGTONES

12345	TONE 123	I Don't Want To Live On The Moon	TONE LIVONMOON
Big Bird's Lullaby	TONE BBLULLABY	I Love Trash	TONE ILOVETRASH
Bubble On My Snuffle	TONE BUBBLEON	If Moon Was Cookie	TONE COOKYMOON
C Is For Cookie	TONE C4COOKIE	Ladybug's Picnic	TONE LADYBUG
Captain Vegetable	TONE CAPTVEG	Lost Me Cookie At The Disco	TONE LOSTCOOKY
Comb Your Face	TONE COMBURFACE	One Of These Things Is Not Like The Other	TONE 1OFTHESE
Cookie's Disco	TONE COOKYDISCO	Rubber Duckie	TONE RUBBERDUCKY
Dance Myself To Sleep	TONE DANCESLEEP	Run	TONE RUN
Elmo's Song	TONE ELMOSONG	Sing	TONE SING
Everybody Wash	TONE EBODYWASH	Somebody Come And Play	TONE COMENPLAY
Fixin' My Hair	TONE MYHAIR	Splish Splash	TONE SPLISH
Fuzzy And Blue	TONE FUZYNBLUE	Sunny Day	TONE SUNNYDAY
Grouch Anthem	TONE GROUCH	Take Care Of That Smile	TONE THATSMILE
Happy Tappin Elmo	TONE TAPPIN	Teeny Little Super Guy	TONE LITTLEGUY

How to download logos, picture messages & ringtones:



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Intel Sound Morpher

zed LOGO LOCO

BUSINESS
Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◆ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Peso slips to 51.30 to $1

THE PESO yesterday fell by 65 centavos to a five-month low of 51.30 to a dollar from 50.66 on Thursday.

Traders said the drop could be traced to worries caused by reports that the government might increase its P130-billion budget deficit target by about P30 billion after the fiscal gap already rose to P119.7 billion during the first six months.

A trader from a foreign bank pointed out that fears of a runaway budget deficit this year triggered heavy buying of dollars.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said it did not help that people were buying dollars but have nowhere to place their funds given the wave of corporate scandal in the United States.

Manufacturing shows strong gains

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S key manufacturing output surged for the second consecutive month by 10.7 percent in May from a year ago, although slower than the five-year high of 17 percent posted in April but still reflective of improving contribution by the industrial sector to economic growth.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the sustained double-digit annual growth in the volume of production index in May was led by the 91.6-percent growth posted by footwear and wearing apparel. Other strong gainers were fabricated metal products, electrical machinery, textile, leather products, miscellaneous manufactures, transport equipment, food and non-metallic mineral products.

The volume of production index likewise expanded by 2.5 percent in May on a month-on-month basis, a strong turnaround from the contraction of 3.1 percent in April, on strong production growth of fabricated metal products, footwear and wearing apparel, chemical products and wood/wood products.

Analysts said the robust rebound by the manufacturing sector, which was battered by the US-led global slowdown last year, reflected the aggressive inventory build-up of local enterprises.

From January to May, the import bill increased by 3.3 percent to $13.07 billion while export receipts likewise expanded by 2.7 percent to $13.77 billion, yielding a five-month trade surplus of $707 million.

Meanwhile, the value of production for May was likewise up by 8.9 percent, although this was slower compared to the revised 13.7-percent growth in April. The month-on-month value likewise improved by 2.6 percent, reversing the 2.3-percent decline in April.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas projected that the industrial sector, of which manufacturing is part of, would grow by 2.6 percent in the second quarter and help the domestic economy post a 3.8 to 4 percent growth for the period.

"The continuing recovery in the global economy and favorable macroeconomic trends in the country are driving the growth momentum in industry and services," Canlas said.

The industrial sector accounted for about 24 percent or 0.9 percentage points of the 3.8-percent economic growth in the first quarter.

The NSO report also estimated the average capacity utilization of the manufacturing sector at 75 percent in May. The proportion of establishments that operated at full capacity (90-100 percent) was only 19.1 percent. About 40.5 percent operated at 70-89 percent capacity while those operating below 70-percent capacity accounted for 40.4 percent.

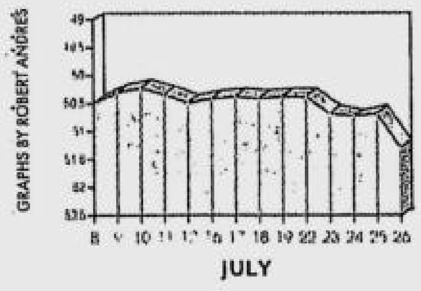
Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said companies were still using their excess capacity without having to invest new money to jack up the volume of production.

"This figure means that even if there's more demand from domestic and foreign markets, the manufacturing sector can cope without spending more money, so if you're talking about demand-pull inflation, it won't be a problem for now," Roxas said.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 51.30 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 26, 2002

¥ 117.37 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 26, 2002

GOLD: $309.30/309.80

per ounce Hong Kong,
July 26, 2002

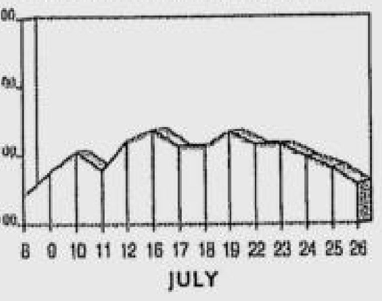
STOCK MARKET

Stocks drop 1.04%

STOCKS led by property giant Ayala Land Inc. fell for the third straight session yesterday as investors grew skeptical of the government's ability to rein in the country's ballooning budget deficit, analysts said.

"Investors are playing it safe. They are cashing out and possibly shifting to other safer havens given the brewing concern on the budget deficit and its eventual drag on the local economy," said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS/ B2

PLDT gets $83.86-M loan from Japanese agency

By Abigail S. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday secured a 9.76-billion yen loan (equivalent to about $83.86 million or P4.3 billion) from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to help the company pay off maturing loans from this year to 2004.

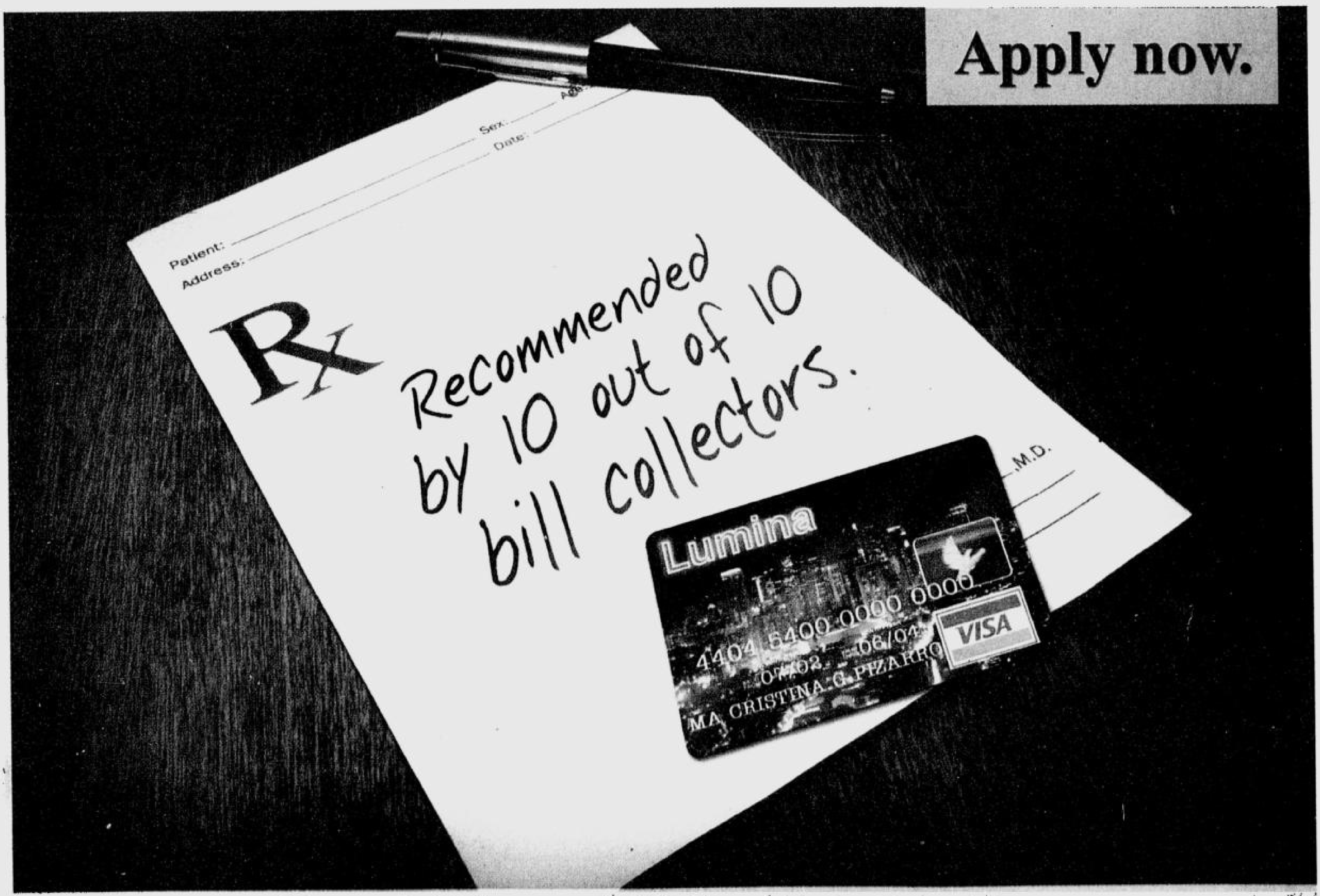
In a statement, PLDT said it could immediately make a drawdown of the loan, with amortization beginning March 2005 after a 2.5-year grace period. Final maturity was set for March 2008.

"Obtaining this JBIC loan demonstrates that PLDT continues to enjoy the support of another key traditional lender and that PLDT's underlying credit fundamentals remain sound," PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said.

PLDT was granted the loan under JBIC's Overseas Investment Loan (OIL) program available to companies with Japanese investors.

The program is intended to

PLDT/ B2



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DTI investigating Shopwise for 'misleading' teaser ads

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A TEASER that turned into a tempest.

Shopwise Super Centers Inc., a subsidiary of the Tantoco family's Rustan group, is under investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry for running what the consumer watchdog described as a deceptive ad—Shopwise Wild Deals 2.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the DTI was prepared to file legal charges against Shopwise if its findings showed that the retailer violated provisions of the Consumer Act on advertising and sales promotion.

Shopwise released last week an ad that enticed shoppers with steep discounts on a brand new pickup truck, digital video disc players and food products but it withheld the mechanics of the promo. Hundreds of shoppers trooped to Shopwise last weekend only to be frustrated after finding out that they had to accumulate the most purchase vouchers in order to have the chance to buy these products at giveaway prices.

"We have received reports that the print ads have allegedly misled a . umber of consumers into believing that they could avail themselves of huge discounts when buying DVDs and brand new pickup trucks," Roxas said.

DTI Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said the law was clear on advertising and marketing gimmicks. "Companies should indicate the mechanics and conditions of their sales promotions to ensure that consumers are not misled or confused."

Cristobal said Shopwise failed to indicate in their teaser advertisements material facts regarding their sales promotion gimmick, including its rules and limitations.

However, ALV ConsultUs Advertising Inc., the ad agency of Shopwise, said in a statement that the sales promotion was applied with and was duly approved by the DTI as per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1323 Series of 2002.

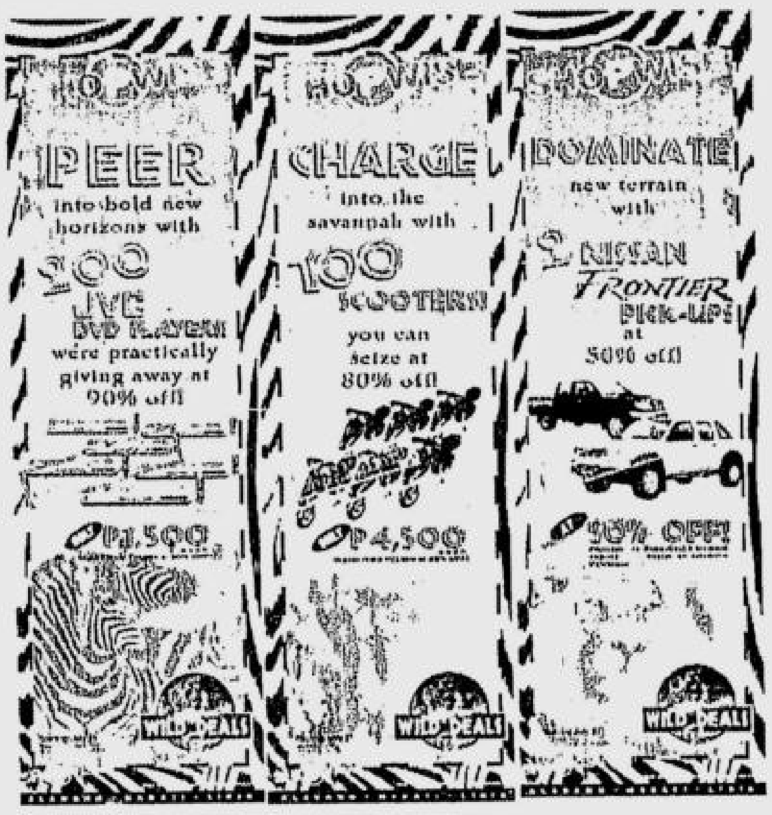
Arnold Bigafria of ALV ConsultUs said teaser ads were commonly used in sales promotions and were not illegal per se.

He said all the advertising materials that "we used for the Wild Deals 2 promotion complied with the DTI rules that required at least one advertising material to contain the complete mechanics, duration, prizes and coverage of the promotion."

All the teaser ads that were released on July 18, 19 and 20 also complied with the requirement that "ad materials with incomplete mechanics shall indicate the phrase 'See poster ads for details.'"

Also, he said that the mechanics of the promotion were explained in full on the ad that was released on July 21.

The first three Shopwise ads, according to the DTI, had a one-liner in small font urging shoppers to see posters for details and it was only on the fourth ad that it explained the mechanics of the sales promotion.



Cristobal cited Chapter 6 of the Consumer Act, which tackled false, deceptive and misleading advertisement.

This chapter of the Consumer Act states that: .t shall be unlawful for any person to disseminate or cause the dissemination of any false, deceptive or misleading advertisement by Philippine mail or in commerce by print, radio, television, outdoor advertisement or other medium for the purpose of inducing or which is likely to induce directly or indirectly the purchase of consumer products and services."

Cristobal said the DTI agreed to put Shopwise under investigation with or without a complaint from consumers. The DTI-National Capital Region's legal affairs center is currently gathering data and information concerning Shopwise teasers ads.

"Although we are surprised by the recent developments considering that the DTI itself gave its seal of approval, we will cooperate witht he DTI in the investigation," Bigafria said.

PSE to refine minimum trade fee rules

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is set to fine-tune its rule on minimum commission rate on stock trades to take into account various concerns raised by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In a press briefing, PSE president Ernest Leung said that while the SEC had approved the introduction of the minimum commission rate in lieu of the prevailing negotiated system, it wanted the bourse to fine-tune its proposal.

For instance, Leung said that while the PSE was planning to impose a minimum commission rate of .25 percent of net trade value, the SEC called its attention to Presidential Decree No. 154 that provided that commission rates could not go lower than P20.

As such, he said the PSE would have to clarify that the floor is 0.25 percent of the trade value but not less than P20.

Leung also said the PSE would address a number of questions raised by the SEC on the planned exemption of broker-to-broker transactions from the minimum commission. ***Doris C. Dumlao***

Petron 1st half net income seen doubling to ₱1.25B

PETRON Corp, the country's largest oil refiner, probably doubled its first-half net income after higher vehicle sales and a recent recovery in manufacturing boosted demand for its products, analysts said yesterday.

They said they expected Petron to record a net income of P1.25 billion to P1.3 billion in the first six months, compared with P513 million a year earlier.

The quarter-on-quarter comparison will be less flattering due to higher crude costs. Net income for the second quarter is expected to be P600 million to P650 million compared with P652 million in January to March.

Petron, which imports all its crude requirements, had a net income of P165 million in the second quarter of 2001.

"The second quarter bottom line may remain flat quarter-on-quarter despite slight improvement in volumes due to the volatile movement of crude prices," said Joanne Miguel, an analyst at 2TradeAsia.com.

She expected Petron to post a profit of P650 million in the second quarter. For .he whole of 2002, she forecast a net income of at least P2 billion, with prospects of better sales this year, due mainly to a rebound in the manufacturing sector. Petron registered a profit of P1.22 billion in 2001.

Petron, which is partly owned by Saudi Aramco, said it would release its financial statement for the first half on July 29.

DBS Vickers Securities analyst Jomar Lacson said in a research note he expected domestic sales of Petron to recover in the second quarter in line with an increase in power sales at Manila Electric Co., higher vehicle sales and robust imports by local manufacturers.

A major portion of Petron's domestic petroleum product sales is industrial fuel oil for power generators.

Meralco, the country's largest power distributor, said this week its kilowatt hour sales volume increased by an annual 2.2 percent in the second quarter, reversing a 6.3-percent decline in the first quarter.

Lacson projected a net income of P600 million in the second quarter, bringing first half profit to P1.252 billion. He expected P2.29 billion for all of 2002. ***Reuters***

FPHC taps $50-M loan to settle debt notes

By Elena R. Torrijos

FIRST Philippine Holdings Corp. is now in the final stages of negotiations with a still undisclosed party for a financing facility amounting to $50 million.

Philippine Rating Services Corp. said this in a press statement yesterday as it noted that its PRS A rating on the Lopez owned firm's outstanding P800 million in long-term commercial papers was still under review.

Philratings, in the same statement, quoted FPHC as saying that all major terms and conditions governing the facility have already been agreed upon. However, Philratings added that the agreement has yet to be signed pending minor revisions of the terms of the financing facility.

"FPHC targets to be able to draw on the facility by the end of the month," Philratings said.

The rating agency said it would continue to monitor the developments on the facility being tapped by the company. It said it would announce its final monitoring rating by Aug. 2.

FPHC is currently seeking to raise funds to pay $86 million in debt notes held by the JP Morgan group ($20 million), the AIG Group ($38 million) and cash-strapped Benpres Holdings Corp. ($28 million). Benpres has a 46-percent stake in FPHC.

According to FPHC, it already has $60 million in cash on hand to partly cover the amount that will have to be paid in August.

FPHC's P800 million in outstanding LTCPs will fall due between November 2003 and January 2004.

PLDT gets $83.86-M loan from Japanese agency

From page B1

support the initiatives of Japanese companies engaging in international operations. It also aims to assist in the development of the host country and investment recipient companies.

Pangilinan and JBIC deputy governor and managing director Shinichi Jin signed the loan agreement in Tokyo yesterday.

Senior officers of both PLDT and dominant Japanese carrier NTT Communications, PLDT's second largest shareholder, served as witnesses to the signing.

"We believe that PLDT is strongly positioned to remain the leading telecommunications provider in both the fixed and wireless sectors in the Philippines and we thank NTT Communications for their unwavering support and confidence in the medium- to long-term prospects of PLDT," Pangilinan said.

He said earlier that having NTT as one of PLDT's majority shareholders made it easier to acquire the loan.

NTT's chief operating adviser to PLDT and PLDT board member Taketo Suzuki also said earlier that JBIC's positive response was indicative of Japan's ongoing commitment to the telecommunications industry in the Philippines.

PLDT has more than $1.3 billion in maturing obligations from this year to 2004. It is currently engaged in a comprehensive liability management program that aims to address these maturities.

A key component of the program, a $130-million multi-currency term loan facility, was launched Wednesday.

Prior to the facility and the JBIC loan, PLDT had successfully concluded other fund-raising initiatives, including a $149-million KfW term loan and a $350-million notes issue.

Aside from these borrowing activities, PLDT has also been actively pursuing cost-containment initiatives and capital expenditure reduction to help improve its internal cash flow.

Stocks drop 1.04%

From page B1

The main index fell 1.04 percent or 11.89 points at 1,129.42, on concerns that interest rates might shoot up as a result of a huge fiscal gap. On the week, the index was down 3.3 percent. Trading volume was thin at P308.9 million.

Losers led by interest-rate sensitive Ayala Land beat gainers 38 to 16. There were 31 stocks unchanged.

"Ayala Land pulled the market. It was down due to likelihood of higher interest rates if the budget deficit this year will be higher than last year," Del Castillo said.

Index heavyweight Ayala Land, which has a market capitalization of $1.26 billion, fell 1.67 percent or 10 centavos at P5.90.

A high-ranking government source said yesterday that the country's budget deficit for 2002 might rise to P163 billion if no major spending cuts are made in the remaining months of the year.

The source also said the 2003 budget deficit target might be raised to P140 billion from the previously deliberated target of P120 billion.

Del Castillo expected the market to be sluggish in coming session with most investors awaiting for more first-half corporate results.

"The market will take its cue from first-half earnings results. But before the market touches the next psychological support level of 1,100, we can expect some bargain hunting," he said. ***Reuters***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, July 26, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.25	16.25	133,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	48.5	47.5	47.5	319,400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	28	28	76,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	33.5	34	492,000
Philippine National Bank	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	41,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	47,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.45	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1240	1245	1240	1245	2,170
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	40,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	915	915	910	910	2,150
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.5	23	22.25	23	13,600
Globe Telecom Inc.	525	525	515	520	28,070
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.028	0.03	0.028	0.028	15,100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	317.5	320	312.5	315	89,850
Philweb.Com Inc	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	102,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.25	30,100
Manila Electric Co. B	27	27	25.5	25.5	930,200
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.72	1.74	3,545,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	1,530,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	3,110,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.46	2.46	2.4	2.42	3,607,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.75	3	2.75	3	45,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	700,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	288,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	30.5	30.5	89,200
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	46.5	45.5	46.5	180,300
San Miguel Corp. B	52	53.5	51.5	53.5	56,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	90,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	2,095,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.38	2.4	4,975,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	260,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	7,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.4	2.4	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.32	1,780,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.055	0.06	0.055	0.06	700,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	500,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	4,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.28	1.4	1.28	1.4	9,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13	13	12.25	12.75	1,992,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.0925	0.09	0.0925	1,100,000
Ionics Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	13,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	115,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.67	1,150,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	230,000
Music Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,320,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	700,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,000,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	25	25	25	25	100
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	700,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	450,000
Manila Jockey Club	10	10	10	10	15,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.5	22.5	22	22	142,000
Jollibee Warrants	12	12	12	12	4,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	4,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.9	11,321,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	3,700,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.08	2.08	4,240,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.76	1.88	250,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	400,000
SM Development Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	330,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	4,480,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	270,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	220,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	370,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	5,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0028	0.0028	17,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.003	0.003	7,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.45	0.5	0.45	0.5	250,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,215,820	43,099,125.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	158,759,120	162,448,770.00
PRO	25,421,000	102,695,040.00
Mining	1,360,000	190,150.00
OIL	29,250,000	257,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	216,005,940	308,690,985.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	453.88	DOWN 5.55
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,546.88	DOWN 3.93
PRO	519.97	DOWN 14.33
Mining	1,165.18	DOWN 38.40
OIL	1.34	UP 0.06
All Shares Index	648.09	DOWN 4.38
Composite	1,129.42	DOWN 11.89

NO. OF ADVANCES: 16; NO. OF DECLINES: 38; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 85; NO. OF TRADES: 1,870

CURRENCIES

July 26, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.995718	1.000000	50.6820
Japan	Yen	0.008555	0.008592	0.4355
United Kingdom	Pound	1.577417	1.584200	80.2904
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.127663	0.128212	6.4980
Switzerland	Franc	0.691759	0.694734	35.2105
Canada	Dollar	0.633772	0.636497	32.2589
Singapore	Dollar	0.571825	0.574284	29.1059
Australia	Dollar	0.538227	0.540541	27.3957
Bahrain	Dinar	2.641303	2.652661	134.4422
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.265525	0.266667	13.5152
Brunei	Dollar	0.570187	0.572639	29.0225
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000111	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024245	0.024349	1.2341
UAE	Dirham	0.271121	0.272287	13.8000
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000865	0.0438
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.004300	50.8999
Argentina	Real	0.275060	0.276243	14.0005
Brazil	Real	0.333462	0.334896	16.9732
Denmark	Kroner	0.134351	0.134929	6.8385
India	Rupee	0.020484	0.020572	1.0426
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.262066	0.263193	13.3391
Mexico	New Peso	0.101843	0.102281	5.1838
New Zealand	Dollar	0.464010	0.466005	23.6181
Norway	Kroner	0.131634	0.132200	6.7002
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016763	0.016835	0.8532
South Africa	Rand	0.097667	0.098087	4.9712
Sweden	Kroner	0.105849	0.106304	5.3877
Syria	Pound	0.019372	0.019455	0.9860
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030028	0.030157	1.5284
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000757	0.000760	0.0385

TRADER Kevin McDermott rests his hands on his head near the close of trading in the S&P 500 futures pit at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. REUTERS

US economy 'strong,' says Bush

GREENSBORO, North Carolina—US President George W. Bush said on Thursday that the US economy was "fundamentally strong" as he sought to reassure Americans anxious about their jobs and pensions because of this year's stock market plunge.

"A lot of people in this country are worried about the economy. They're worried about their job. I want you to know that I believe the economy is fundamentally strong," Bush said in a speech. "Our economy is growing. Inflation is low. Employment is stabilizing."

With the gyrations in the US stock market, which is down about 18 percent so far this year as measured by the Dow Jones industrial average, many Americans fear that their life savings may be melting away. The Dow industrials ended about 0.06 percent lower at 8,186.31 on Thursday.

Bush has sought to ease the economic anxiety by arguing that the fundamental economy is sound despite the market's decline, which has been triggered by a loss of confidence in corporate America after accounting scandals at energy trader Enron Corp. and telecommunications company WorldCom Inc.

Reacting to the accounting scandals, Congress approved corporate reform legislation on Thursday that sharply increased penalties for fraud and beefed up oversight of accountants, sending the bill to Bush, who said he would sign it into law. *Reuters*

Mixed US economic data suggest sluggish recovery

WASHINGTON—A sharp fall in the number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits and a rise in new home sales to a record pace outweighed bleak manufacturing news on Thursday, showing the US economy is sluggish but healing.

Initial state jobless insurance claims hit a 17-month low last week while sales of new homes edged up to a record pace in June, fueled by persistently low mortgage rates. But sales of existing homes tumbled, while orders for durable goods sank to their lowest level in seven months.

"Overall, the reports are not stellar but still suggest that the macroeconomy is on the mend," said Oscar Gonzalez, economist at John Hancock Financial Services.

Analysts said jobless claims tend to be a better economic indicator than durable goods orders. They noted the two housing reports, taken together, signal that sector will probably remain one of the main pillars of strength for the economy.

Reuters

Is the US economy going the way of Japan's?

NEW YORK—Economists call it the nightmare scenario: The US stock market sells off for months to come, tipping the economy back into recession and threatening to push the nation into a quagmire of damaging deflation.

That was the fate that lay in store for Japan when its bubble burst and, aggravated by policy mistakes, the world's second-largest economy began a decade of economic stagnation.

Trillions of dollars of wealth in the United States have been vaporized since the bear market began two years ago, raising concerns in some quarters that the US could follow the downward spiral of Japan.

But there are enough reasons, for now, to believe it won't happen here, perhaps the most important being that US policymakers have the lesson of Japan—and how not to handle a crisis—to learn from.

"The United States has the Japanese experience as a cautionary tale," said Goldman Sachs chief economist Bill Dudley.

That means the Federal Reserve and the Bush administration are likely to err on the side of more accommodative monetary and fiscal policies if they are faced with a similar set of circumstances.

"In this environment, when inflation is this low, it's sensible for the Fed to make sure they err in that direction," Dudley said.

He said for a Japanese-style outcome, stocks would have to fall considerably further, triggering a double-dip recession and policymakers would have to sit on their hands throughout. "That is very unlikely."

At first blush, there's plenty to worry about. In the post-bubble world, US stock markets have plunged, wiping out years of gains in the worst bear market in a generation. Financial conditions have tightened up, making it tough for even creditworthy companies to raise essential cash, and business spending has tanked after years of over-investment.

The same was true in Japan after its stock market peaked in late 1989, and the nation spent the 1990s hovering in and out of recession. In 1989, the benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index was above 39,000 points. It closed on Wednesday at 9,930.

But economists say the overall differences outweigh the similarities.

For a start, Japan's asset price bubble was not confined to stocks; land values collapsed as well, so that bank loans tied to those prices went bad, and many banks still had those non-performing loans on their books, crippling the banking system and limiting their ability to lend for new projects.

In the United States, the financial system remains sound despite a rash of market rumors about liquidity problems at leading banks. Those crisis fears briefly pushed short-dated Treasury yields down to record lows on Wednesday, before ratings agency Standard & Poor's and Washington regulators moved to reassure investors, saying the concerns were unfounded. *Reuters*

Enron, WorldCom scams cost economy at least $37B

WASHINGTON—The fallout from the Enron and WorldCom scandals will cost the US economy an estimated $37 billion to $42 billion this year, according to a study released Thursday.

US ARMY Secretary Thomas White testifies before the Senate commerce committee's Enron hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. White faced questions by senators about his 11 years at Enron. AFP

The Brookings Institution study says much of the losses will come from stock declines that reduce the so-called wealth effect and end up impacting gross domestic product.

The study assumes that the stock market does not recover from its July 19 level this year or drop substantially below it.

"Declines in the value of stocks can adversely affect the economy in at least two ways," according to the report.

"One is through the so-called wealth effect on consumption. As consumers feel poorer, they are likely to spend less. The second channel is through the impact of falling stock prices on the 'equity premium' and thus on the cost of capital. Other things equal, a lower stock market especially one that is associated with more volatility—should drive up the cost of equity capital, and thus diminish investment."

Additionally, they said, investment "can be dampened to the extent firms expect lower consumption and more uncertainty, both of which can and are likely to be associated with a drop in stock prices."

The study examined the precipitous declines in the stock market since March, and concluded that much of the drop could be attributed to corporate malfeasance and scandals. *AFP*

Global farm powers gather to discuss gov't subsidies

NARA, Japan—Ministers of global farm powers gathered here Friday to begin two-day WTO talks on agriculture aimed at reducing government subsidies and boosting market access.

US Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman will kick-off the fifth Quint Agricultural Ministerial Meeting here. She will present a paper on the development of new agricultural technologies at the meeting chaired by Japanese Farm Minister Tsutomu Takebe.

Veneman was also likely to discuss a new US proposal, unveiled in Washington Thursday, that would limit so-called trade-distorting agricultural subsidies at 5 percent of the value of agricultural production, a US official said.

"We want to talk to people about our WTO proposal, explain it to them, get them to understand it better," said JB Penn, US undersecretary for agriculture, adding Veneman would brief each of her Quint counterparts.

The new US proposal, to be submitted to the WTO next week, would require Washington to halve its new subsidies in the latest $180-billion farm bill.

But it would likely require steeper cuts in European farm subsidies under the European Union's farm subsidy program known as the Common Agricultural Policy.

Australian Agriculture Minister Warren Truss hailed the US plan as "encouraging," and said the pressure was now on the European Union to respond in kind.

"The proposal is a boost to the WTO Doha trade negotiations and an encouraging sign that momentum is building for significant and much needed reform of agricultural support and protection," Truss said in a statement. *AFP*

Japanese consumer prices fall for 33rd month in June

TOKYO—Japan's household spending jumped in June as consumer prices fell for a 33rd straight month, throwing the spotlight back on Japan's battle with deflation at a delicate time when unemployment is rising and wages are frozen.

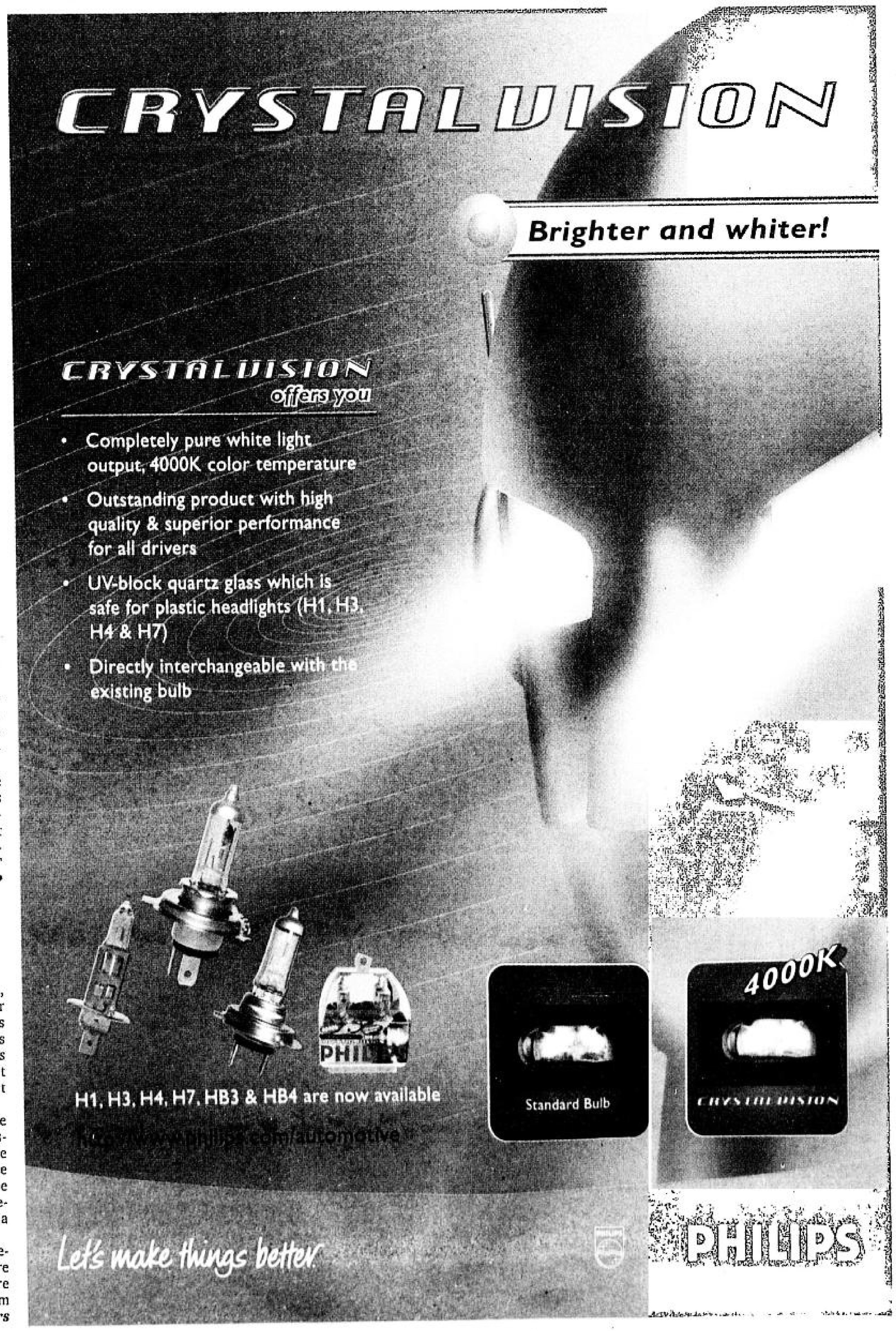
The nationwide core consumer price index, which excludes volatile fresh food prices, slipped 0.8 percent in June from a year earlier and fell 0.1 percent from May, the government said on Friday.

In a sign that prices will probably continue to fall, Tokyo's core consumer prices, tallied a month ahead of nationwide figures, fell one percent in July from a year earlier, the 34th straight month of decline.

The fall in nationwide prices, in line with a median forecast for a 0.8-percent drop in a Reuters survey, showed deflation was still a potent force in the world's second largest economy as it struggles to recover from last year's recession.

"The CPI figures show that the deflationary pressure is persistent. The fact that the jobless rate is not coming down means the pressure will remain for some time," said Takeshi Minami, senior economist at UFJ Tsubasa Securities.

Economists had forecast a one-percent drop in July's Tokyo core prices from a year earlier. Core Tokyo prices fell 0.1 percent from June. *Reuters*



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FAMILY PLANNING

Getting men to share responsibility

By Charles E. Buban

There's a small barangay in Nueva Vizcaya where the rest of the country can take its cue in dealing with the issue of population growth.

A pilot project funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has enlisted all the male spouses in Barangay Calaocan in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya as advocates of reproductive health and family planning.

At first the project proponents found it difficult to convince the men. They initially thought family planning was an issue best left for their wives to deal with. However, after several meetings—and some encouragement—they were soon were convinced about the issue that in the end they turned out to be even more committed than their wives.

A year after the project started, there was a significant increase in the men's knowledge and consciousness of reproductive health, in their active participation in their wives' prenatal checkups and their children's health care, and in their own visits to the clinics for consultations.

The project in Barangay Calaocan is one of five population management projects initiated in the countryside, an experimental undertaking monitored by the Commission on Population (Popcom). Popcom is primarily responsible for coordinating, monitoring and formulating policies for the country's population program.

Model projects

Popcom recently released a paper titled "Local Governments and Filipino families: Partners for Peace and Progress" that reported on the status of the five projects.

"The country can learn a lot from these model barangays. By working on a smaller unit, we can study what initiatives we implement successfully on the national level," explained Popcom executive director Tomas Osias. "In (the case of Barangay Calaocan), we have shown that men are also willing to get involved given the chance to participate in family planning issues."

Most efforts at family planning have almost always targeted women, while men are thought to be stumbling blocks to planned parenthood efforts.

From an early age, boys are often introduced into gender roles designed to keep men in power and in control. Ideas about manhood are deeply ingrained. As a result, young men are often involved in risky and aggressive sexual behavior that are often applauded by peers and condoned by society.

"Many grow up believing that dominant behavior toward girls and women is part of being a man," said Osias.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

To address this issue, several organizations in coordination with Popcom went to various local governments to spread messages that can help boys and young men reflect upon and discuss issues on masculinity, relationships and sexuality.

"Men have a shared responsibility in bringing children into the world and those responsibilities for the family must be instilled in the males at a young age," stressed Osias.

Intervention

The UNFPA has identified several key interventions that could help bring about healthier and more equitable partnerships between men and women. These include:

- Integrating activities to screen for and treat sexually transmitted disease with family planning.
- Supporting men's reproductive health services and "male-friendly" reproductive health clinics and giving better access to condoms.
- Asking community leaders to endorse equal partnerships between men and women and advocate gender equality and call for an end to harmful practices.
- Enacting measures that discourage gender-based violence.
- Encouraging a greater role for men in raising children.
- Working with the mass media, educators and service providers to promote alternative male role models and change norms that tolerate violence.

Curbing population growth

These efforts are all aimed at controlling the country's population growth rate.

"If it seems like there are a lot more Filipinos around these days, well you're probably right," said Osias.

The country's population is currently pegged at 80,961,430—a number so big that we are ranked 13th in the world as most populous nation. China (1,256,167,701) and India (1,017,645,163) topped the list.

"But what we should be worried about is not the number but the pace at which we are growing. Right now our population is increasing at the rate of 2.36 percent annually which means that 1.7 million babies are being born every year. If this trend goes on, our population will double in number in just 29 years—the prospect for us is, indeed alarming," warned Osias.

This demographic situation will have grave consequences for the country's economic growth, social welfare and the environment.

Osias said the present population growth rate is canceling out the country's economic gains.

However, we are not the only one in this predicament. According to the UNFPA, nearly all of the world's population growth occurs in less developed countries such as ours. World population increases by about 83 million annually and 99 percent of this increase occurs in the less developed countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Oceania.

The UNFPA suggested a number of areas where countries can work on to address this growth rate problem:

- Decreasing total fertility rate
- Decreasing infant mortality rate
- Increasing contraceptive prevalence rate for all methods
- Increasing contraceptive prevalence rate for modern methods
- Decreasing percent of births in high-risk groups.

History of Philippine medicine

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

DID YOU know that:

- Jose Rizal performed the first local cataract operation (on his mother) in 1887?
- There were 15 physicians and pharmacists who were delegates to the Malolos Congress (among then Gen. Antonio Luna, Leon Ma. Guerrero and Trinidad Pardo de Tavera)?
- The Spanish failed in their efforts to vaccinate the Filipinos—but the US sanitation team (with the help of the military) succeeded?
- Maria Paz Mendoza Guanzon (one of the first women physicians, who graduated from UP in 1912) was a pathologist specializing in *bangungot*?
- Some of the biggest scourge brought by the Japanese occupation of the country were venereal diseases inflicted by General Yamashita's 250,000 soldiers on Filipino comfort women?

"Never before has anyone attempted a comprehensive historical account of Philippine medicine," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit attests. Yet with release last May 22 of the more than 400-page "History of Philippine Medicine: 1899-1999" (Anvil, 2002), the "unorganized collection of monographs and brochures which provided limited snapshots of the medical scene" has now been documented by authors who "lived and worked within the century that they have written about."

Not only is this work a fitting handbook for medical practitioners dealing with the realities of policy-making and operations in the public health system, it is also an engrossing read for the interested lay person.

A look at the table of contents reveals the breadth of the book's coverage: medicine during the pre-Spanish and Spanish periods, the First Philippine Republic, the Filipino-American War years, the American period, the Japanese occupation and Battle of Liberation, the restored Philippine Republic, and under the Department of Health. It also covers the UP Colleges of Medicine, Public Health and Pharmacy and the PGH, the Philippine Medical Association and component societies and specialty medical societies, medical education and Philippine medical schools. There are chapters on achievers during the past 50 years, managed health care, Philippine drug development, the health of the Filipino at the end of the 20th century, medical knowledge and practice, the fight against nutritional diseases, alternative medicine from plants, holistic approach in alternative medicine, and recent initiatives in medical education.

The book has more than 40 appendices, ranging from faculty rosters and profiles of health secretaries to the PGH residency training program and landmarks in world history. Interspersed within the text are photos of medical pioneers, which add a human touch to the practice of the profession.

Let me quote some passages from an intriguing article "The Pathology of Bangungot" (written by Dr. J. Z. Sta. Cruz, published in the Journal of the Philippine Medical Association in July 1951).

"*Bangungot* comes from two Tagalog terms: *bangon* (to rise) and *ungul* (to moan), and is applied "to the death of a person in his sleep due to a dream or nightmare. The popular belief is that this person, dreaming of a horrible experience, such as a demon strangling him, tries hard to catch his breath and to set himself free, causing him to struggle desperately and to scream shrilly."

However, although the pathology of this disease is well-known, its "real" cause is still unknown. There are four theories regarding *bangungot*:

"The mechanical theory: the heavy meal before sleeping at night might have embarrassed the function of the heart by the mechanical pressure of the distended stomach. The toxic theory: the fermentation or putrefaction of the previous meal might have caused an auto-intoxication affecting the heart, or the pancreas, or both. The beriberi or cardiac theory: beriberi or heart trouble may have resulted in an acute failure of the right heart. The nightmare theory: the individual has a horrible nightmare, and in his struggle due to fright or hatred, hemorrhages in the lungs are produced, resulting in death due to respiratory failure."

A committee to study *bangungot* was also formed by the Office of the Medical Examiner as early as 1956. Unfortunately, until the present, a great portion of the mystery still remains.

The book was authored by three eminent physicians.

Dr. Conrado Dayrit, a recipient of numerous awards, is one of the founders of the Philippine Heart Association and has published over 200 scientific papers in local and international journals. He is fellow emeritus of the American College of Cardiology and emeritus member of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics. (He is also the father of the health secretary, our dean in the Ateneo School of Science and Engineering Dr. Toby Dayrit, and is the professor of my father, Dr. William Lee.)

Dr. Perla Santos Ocampo is the president of the National Academy of Science and Technology. A prolific author of scientific papers and medical textbooks, she also served as chancellor of UP-Manila, president of the Pediatric Association and the Philippine Medical Association. I am honored to say she is a fellow TOWNS awardee.

Dr. Eduardo de la Cruz served as founding president of many medical associations, including the Medical Association of Southeast Asian Nations. A noted educator, entrepreneur and author, he is also a former president of the Philippine Medical Association.

"History of Philippine Medicine" is now available in leading bookstores.

Science travel and Lung Center tempest

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael Castillo, MD

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Chester was grinning from ear to ear as he prepared for a trip to Cebu City. It was his first trip there and he was excited because it was also his first time to go on a ship.

Science is Chester's favorite subject in school. On board the WG&A Super Ferry, the intelligent Chester wondered how the ship was able to float on the ocean despite its weight and size. He had so many questions, and it was apparent that only a knowledgeable teacher could satisfy his craving for knowledge.

Luckily for Chester, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in cooperation with WG&A Philippines launched the "Sail on Science" (SOS) program that aims to support the advancement of science and technology (S&T) in the country.

The DOST realizes the importance of S&T in nation building. The success stories of our Asian neighbors like Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Malaysia, which all emphasize S&T in primary school, are proofs of this. These countries are always among the top in global science competitions, and their economies are enviable.

The DOST wants to achieve what the rest of the developed world have accomplished. However, according to Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro, the government's effort is not enough to popularize S&T in the country. There is a need for a concerted effort among the government, private sector and the academe so that S&T will create a huge impact on the lives of many Filipinos and the society.

For its part, WG&A wants to empower its clients by giving them access to S&T services and development opportunities. It provides the venue and facilities for the SOS project.

Together with the Philippine Science Journalists Association (PSciJourn) and the Science and Technology Information Institute (STII-DOST), the DOST and WG&A created the SOS program to create an environment favorable to public awareness and understanding of S&T. The signing of the program's memorandum of agreement took place aboard WG&A's Super Ferry. Dr. Alabastro, WG&A Phils. president and CEO Endika Aboitiz, and PSciJourn president Angelo Palmones led the MOA signing.

Ships for science

The SOS program—which runs from June 15, 2002 to May 30, 2003—seeks to reinforce the role of S&T in economic development and progress. The SOS program provides S&T information to passengers of WG&A vessels through various forms of media, including photo displays and product exhibits. There are also seminars that aim to simplify and popularize science to the public.

S&T video documentary and infomercials provide visual support to capture the attention of lay people, including those who may not be science-oriented. Various publications such as science newsletters, brochures, pamphlets and flyers that discuss, promote and encourage S&T are available for passengers.

The SOS is specially designed to provide productive travel for passengers.

For scientists, the program can also be a tool to communicate their ideas with ordinary citizens. WG&A shoulders all costs on board of the guest scientists and materials, travel expenses and the hiring of project staff.

For its part, the PSciJourn promotes the SOS project and its component activities. It makes sure seminars are conducted in such a way that they can be readily appreciated by laymen.

An essential facet of the SOS program is a visit to sites of successful DOST technologies in the country.

There is also an optional program, the S&T listening groups, which is specially designed for young people, usually grade five to second year high school students. In cooperation with Letran Calamba Foundation, STII produced audiocassettes on S&T lessons, concepts and principles which have practical applications. The program, which runs for 30 minutes, requires a teacher/coordinator because pre- and post-tests will be conducted.

We have a long way to go before we can catch up with progressive nations in the S&T field. In our country, science research is stuck in mediocrity because funds for meaningful research come like rain in the desert. Yet research is supposed to be the lifeline to the future. Our bright scientists are certainly not lacking in ideas, but a good car can never run without fuel.

Hopefully, with the renewed interest on science and technology, things will change. I think we're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. I just hope it's not the light of an approaching train.

Lung Center controversy

It seems the national predilection for disunity and intolerance for strict and hardworking leaders has trickled down to smaller agencies like the Lung Center of the Philippines.

The demolition job against LCP executive director, Dr. Fernando Melendres, is in full swing. A litany of trumped-up charges, many of which border on the flimsy and ridiculous, have been hurled at Dr. Melendres. Charges—such as calling his house using a hospital-provided cell phone, charging gasoline expense for trips to Laguna and Batangas to gather ornamental plants for the hospital inauguration, giving preferential treatment to some physicians, and several other graft charges—look like a shotgun attempt to aimlessly blast the target, hoping that one or two would hit it.

Dr. Melendres can perhaps be blamed for tactlessness and radical changes for which the hospital employees have not been adequately prepared for, but serious, intended graft from which he materially benefited? Or favoritism ? I doubt it.

I remember when I made a request to procure an equipment and Dr. Melendres turned it down because the hospital had limited resources and the equipment was not a priority. In due time we'll have it, he said, but not then. I appreciated and respected his judgment.

The leader always looks at the big picture while the employees generally look at the smaller one. The leader thinks, "Let's sacrifice and build on what we have so we can achieve our vision." The employee asks, "What's in it for us, now?" The leader thinks of tomorrow, the myopic employee is preoccupied with the here and now. This is a frequent source of conflict.

Lung Center physicians, most of whom are sympathetic to Dr. Melendres, are getting restless once more. A fact-finding committee created by the Department of Health conducted a hearing two months ago, but until now the results have not been released. There are disturbing reports that a verdict has already been reached, not in accordance with the results and recommendations of the committee. I'm sure Health Secretary Manolet Dayrit will act on this case objectively and fairly. Dayrit is one guy who sees the big picture.

The physicians who would like to see Dr. Melendres out of Lung Center apparently have strong connections. Judging by their media releases, they appear well-organized and perhaps well-funded, too. I'm sure Secretary Dayrit will not be swayed by any of the strings they pull, even if it means doing things the hard way. The easy way is to simply make Dr. Melendres resign. The hard way is doing a thorough investigation to get to the bottom of things and resisting pressures from above and below.

The Lung Center problem may just be a drop in the bucket in relation to the entire health care delivery system of the country. But it's one hell of a concentrated drop and I'm sure Secretary Dayrit will exercise his best judgment to save this drop.

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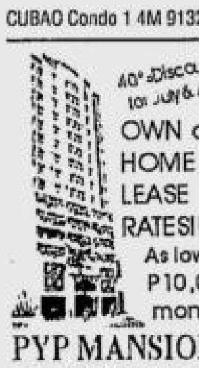

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MANDALUYONG

1BR GRGE P5.5T 532-4446

Nr Megamall 10T 5315809

PARANAQUE

Cor. 8th & 10-E Sts United Paranaque V. Paranaque City Tel. 8254661 Office Hours; 7765609 After Office Hours

PASAY

2BR Cuenca/Lib •831-5026•

QUEZON CITY

2BR 2units 23 Daniel Tirona nr P.Tuazon Proj 4 T9125969

CUBAO Female P3.8 4381480

•P5.5T Studio T-9267419

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MALATE 1,2,3 BR UNITS 1.8M UP 0918-9132396

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Maga-Vill 2Sty Hse 4BR TB 4Car Grg 722-9573 • 414-8184

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2 Houses 3BR 2TB w/ Carport Pls. Call 713-1859

QUEZON CITY

3BR 2TB NR UP P9.5T/mo. 9310685

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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Unit #705 2BR w/Parking
125 sqm F. Furnished
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FULLY FURNISHED with Telephone 1BR 1WR w/ World Class Facilitation and a Hotel Type High Tech Communication System 24--HR Security covering a total of 55.22sqm excluding Parking space P20,000.00/mo. Rental
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★Med Plz Prtigas Sale/Rent 40-75m² 4121825 09177914366

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2000 ATOZ 270T very cute sedan looks like Toyota Echo blue, a/t, very nice cond must see! 7317984/7316550

94 Grace 150t, 97H-100 225t, 97Starex 690t,2001Starex 690t all power, A1 condition Financing OK! Free LTO Reg'n 731-7984/731-6550

KIA

97Besta 2.7 195t all power A1 cond, Free LTO Reg'n Finance OK! 7317984/7316550

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90Lancer 95T neg 2599224

'95 EL LNCER 190T 666-3590

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90 Toyota TLD 561-2824

96 Toyota Corona M/T Mint P300T •Call 892-7627•

CORONA'93 A/T 230T(neg) 896-5853 (0916)5159157

CORONA'93 A/T 230T(neg) 896-5853 (0916)5159157

OTHER CAR BRANDS

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BUSES/TRUCKS

ELF CANTER A1 9124428

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Q.C. Br. 426-2278 426-4084

Cheap Van 8254056 8261045

CAR VANS 410-0495

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

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U DRIVE OR W/DRIVER
HONDA REVO TOYOTA
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FXcheaprates3730584Cathy

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

NL3 8533103 / 09163443087

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

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1.5% EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

★USED CAR LOAN 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURE

P30T-45Tup Kawai Yamaha O/Bros Cash/Terms 9240834

PETS

COLLIE PUPS 0917-8110317

DOG TRAINER 4528601

★PUGS★WRINKLED 3725231

LABRADOR PUPPIES W/PAPERS 6560091/6562303

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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
Licensed by the Government
Trains Dogs Scientifically
Tel # 721-37-36

Professional Dog Trainer
Tel.# 0919-7414590

• SHIH TZU PUPS 414-9426 •

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B/SELL EDUC'L 8061574

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Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

MISCELLANEOUS

B/SELL EDUC PLAN
GIE 780-0106 · 0917-7939632

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Sousaphones / Tenor
Saxophones / Symbals
Trombones/Trumpets/Tubas
T9361426/9372622/9372640

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Surveyor, Assistant Surveyor, Cameraman •4589650•

FEMALE

ACCOUNTING CLERK, female single & computer literate Apply at 437-D A.Juan St. San Juan, call 723-4623-25

Dermatologist Female
with Pleasing Personality
725-8412 • 0917-5387186

Domestic Helper •843-2596•

F-ESCORT • 0917-9593176

•RELIABLE MAIDS 8330946/47

Resident Physician & Midwife Call 640-1885 • 641-2221 Dra. Ventura or Grace

MALE/FEMALE

★OFFICE STAFF★
18-45.w/ w/o exp START ASAP
913-4470 Look for ZOBEL

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

★ ADMIN STAFF (20) 9134470 0917-5033825 Ms. POWERS

★Office Staff 18-45yrs old Coll level/grad 4370152 Shie

HRD STAFF 9134470 GRECO

OFC STAFF 09165218635 Porsh

Organization Need
PHARMACIST
work as Executive Asst. M/F S flexible computer literate apply Saturday July 27 10am-12nn DSAP Office AB Sandoval Bldg Shaw Blvd corner Oranbo Pasig Call 631-4254

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POEA-387-LB-110601-R
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DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
FOR
SAO TOME, WEST AFRICA
ACCRE NO. 39499-2

STONE QUARRY SUPERVISOR

Not more than 45 years old, with experience on SAMUEL OSBORNE jaw crusher and supervising local workforce and operation and maintenance of earthmoving machines/equipment and trucks

EARTHMOVING MECHANIC

Not more than 45 years old, with experience on Caterpillar, Bell, Liebherr earthmoving Machines, Mercedes Benz, Iveco, Lleyland, Mack trucks, AEC Lleyland bitumen distributor trucks, P&H and Lorain cranes.

If either of the candidates have experience as operators of the P&H and Lorain cranes it would be advantageous. Both must be fluent in English, have experience in Africa and valid international drivers license.

Please apply in Person at:

ASIA-WORLD RECRUITMENT, INC.
1289 P. Ocampo Sr. (formerly Vito Cruz)
cor. Lemery St., Manila

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with complete machines

Send your application to:
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33 Panaluran Street, Banawe Extension, Quezon City
Tel. No. 365-0593 look for Emy

WANTED
NUTRITIONIST
Female, single, experienced in Menu Making, Restaurant Operation and Catering.
Call 922 8652 / 249 0919 or 6451298

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Monet 2528373 • 09174037776

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•Travel N Earn From Home•
Arlene 8531008 (0917)8901851

EARN FROM HOME 847-6341

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I MAKE P500,000.00/mo
Needs People To Train
• Tel.# 525-0234 •

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Sales Commis'ns 364-7559

Supervisors P/F Time 8376068

Train For Success
0917-8371152

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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for a minimum P 1,000 investment?
Freelancers, Students and Office Workers welcome
100% MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
4123561 / 67 / 57 / 58

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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WANTED DEALERS
LACTO BACILLUS PRODUCTS
CALL JAN 0917-4880380

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of late PAULINA S. PANGILINAN was extrajudicially settled by an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication by the sole heir as per Doc141 Page30 BookI Series 2002 before Notary Public Joselito C. Frial of QC
PDI July 27, August 3&10, 20002

Notice is given that the heirs of PABLO B. BANDILLA, SR. executed an extrajudicial settlement for TCT No. 181267 Antipolo on 19 July 2002 as per Doc. 571 Page 84 Book I, Series 2002 of Not. Pub. Maridel Tacardon of Makati City.
(PDI-July 20, 27 & Aug. 3, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax No. 8954024
Tel. Nos. 8976682
8901332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of MARVA'S GARMENT with office address at 2071 Gulang-Gulang Street, Lucena City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book 1 of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended, as Existing Export Producer of Garments at a capacity of 25,000 dozens per year with plant site at the same office address stated above has been officially accepted on July 10, 2002 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 10th day of July 2002.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI -- July 27 2002)

Republic of the Philippines

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

PROPERTIES FOR SALE/LEASE

The Social Security System is offering for sale/lease the following real estate properties:

PRYCE TOWER
Pryce Business Park, Bajada, Davao City

CCT No.	Floor	Location	Area (sqm)	Selling Price
1 636	14th	Penthouse Ph-2A	245.92	P 11,558,240.00
2 637	14th	Penthouse Ph-2B	261.35	12,283,450.00
3 638	14th	Penthouse Ph-2C	208.70	9,808,900.00
4 639	14th	Penthouse Ph-2D	249.29	11,716,630.00
5 640	15th	Penthouse Ph-1A	245.92	11,558,240.00
6 641	10th	Suite # 107	137.19	6,447,930.00
7 642	10th	Suite # 106	117.36	5,515,920.00
8 568	10th	Suite # 105	203.44	9,561,680.00
9 569	10th	Suite # 104	139.14	6,539,580.00
10 570	10th	Suite # 103	120.21	5,649,870.00
11 571	10th	Suite # 102	116.15	5,459,050.00
12 572	10th	Suite # 101	125.76	5,910,720.00
13 573	7th	Suite # 076	117.36	5,515,920.00
14 574	7th	Suite # 073	120.21	5,649,870.00
15 575	7th	Suite # 072	116.15	5,459,050.00
Parking Slots				495,000.00/slot

Pryce Business Park
Bajada, Davao City

Lot No.	TCT No.	Area (Sq.M.)	Selling Price
1 Lot 2	331351	900	P 19,440,000.00
2 Lot 5	331352	1090	23,544,000.00

Josefina Town Center, Davao City
Brgy. Dumoy, Talomo District, Davao City

Lot No. Blk No.	TCT No.	Area (Sq.M.)	Selling Price
1 Lot 5 Blk 5	331311	780	P 3,198,000.00
2 Lot 3 Blk 2	331302	1010	4,141,000.00
3 Lot 5 Blk 2	331304	766	3,140,600.00
4 Lot 6 Blk 2	331305	768	3,148,800.00
5 Lot 2 Blk 3	331307	755	3,095,500.00
6 Lot 1 Blk 3	331306	755	3,095,500.00
7 Lot 2 Blk 2	331301	1010	4,141,000.00
8 Lot 8 Blk 5	331314	699	2,865,900.00
9 Lot 9 Blk 5	331315	1500	6,150,000.00
10 Lot 1 Blk 2	331300	1010	4,141,000.00
11 Lot 3 Blk 1	331299	844	3,460,400.00
12 Lot 1 Blk 1	331297	844	3,460,400.00
13 Lot 4 Blk 2	331303	766	3,140,600.00
14 Lot 6 Blk 5	331312	700	2,870,000.00
15 Lot 4 Blk 5	331310	805	3,300,500.00
16 Lot 2 Blk 1	331298	844	3,460,400.00
17 Blk 4	331308	10157	41,643,700.00
18 Lot 10 Blk 5	331316	1500	6,150,000.00
19 Lot 3 Blk 5	331309	1117	4,579,700.00
20 Lot 7 Blk 5	331313	699	2,865,900.00

The Social Security System also accepts installment proposals under the following terms:

Term	maximum of ten years
Rate	15%
Downpayment	minimum of 10%
Reservation deposit :	P20,000.00

For inquiries, interested buyers/lessees may contact Engr. Baltazar Cajilig, Officer-in-Charge, Asset Management Department, 5th floor SSS Building, East Avenue, Quezon City or may call telephone numbers 4359875 or 4359877.

Registered brokers are welcome.

(Sgd.) **GAMELIN Z. OCZON**
OIC Investments

(PDI--July 26 & 27, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
Region X
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos.: Mis. Or. Tel. (08822)72-65-89 PhilCom (088)858-41-67
E-mail – niareg10@cdo.philcom.com.ph Fax (088) 858-3256

July 26, 2002

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Invitation to Bid No. LMC 2002-04, Schedule 2

The **NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA) REGION 10** is inviting Interested Licensed contractors to pre-qualify and to bid for the contract works at Bubunawan River Irrigation Project (Phase II) in Lingating, Baungon, Bukidnon:

Contract : Construction of Main Canal & Appurtenant Structures Sta. 2+520 - 4+178
Approved Budget: P9,952,494.80
Maximum Contract Duration: 210 Calendar days
Minimum Contractor's License: Medium "A"
Minimum Equipment Requirements:

Bill of Quantities:

ITEM OF WORKS	UNIT	QUANTITY
Temporary Works, Mobilization & Demobilization	l.s.	l.s.
Common Structure Excavation	cu.m.	6,053.00
3,000 PSI Concrete	cu.m.	1,114.00
Reinforcing Steel Bars		
a. Furnishing of Materials	kg.	51,874.00
b. Cutting, Bending, & Installation	kg.	51,874.00
Rubber Water Stop	l.m.	83.00
Structure Backfill	Cu.m.	2,159.00
Furnish & Install 30" dia. RC Pipe	pcs.	45.00
Gravel Blanket	Cu.m.	304.00
Road Surfacing	Cu.m.	48,017.00

Interested contracts are advised to observe the following schedules:

Last day of issuance of Eligibility Statement Forms: - August 12, 2002
Last day for submission of accomplished Eligibility Statement: - August 19, 2002
Last day of Issuance of Bid Documents to qualified bidders: - September 02, 2002
Pre-Bid Conference: - September 10, 2002 - 2:00 p.m.
Opening of Bids: - September 26, 2002 - 2:00 p.m.

Only bidders eligible to bid shall be issued Bid Documents upon payment of P3,000.00.

NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and accept submit proposals from the bidders whose bids is considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOHNNY V. EMMANUEL, CESO V**
Regional Manager

(PDI - July 27 & Aug 4 2002)

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation

Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone 893-1320 local 5115 • Fax 840-1461

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as IAC SMALL B in Electrical Works or General Building—Building and Industrial Plant to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

LEYTE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
STAGE 8, SCHEDULE 1A (6 Barangays)
under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-147

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, including the supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to six (6) Barangays located in the towns of Burauen, Matalom and Tabon-Tabon, Leyte, Oriental.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o I M Corcuera) starting July 27, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100 00)

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of August 12, 2002.

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting August 19, 2002 upon payment of a non refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000 00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on September 6, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at Don Felipe Hotel, Ormoc City. Site inspection to follow thereafter.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of September 19, 2002 then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC

(Sgd) ESTER R. GUERZON
Manager
Operations Services Division

(PDI – July 27, 2002)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY GARMENT MERCHANDISER

Garment buying office located in Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, seeks merchandiser to handle buying and development for major US retailers and brands, including one of the hottest and fastest growing menswear labels in the United States.

Candidate must have at least 5 years minimum experience in the industry and have a knowledge of woven tops and bottoms, knit experience would be good but not required.

Qualified applicants should fax their resumés to Mrs. Luz Cruz
Tel. Nos. 636-5562, 637-9232; Fax Nos. 941-0669, 637-9232

Republika ng Pilipinas
KAGAWARAN NG KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN AT PAGPAPAUNLAD
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT)
BATASAN PAMBANSA COMPLEX, CONSTITUTION HILLS
QUEZON CITY
July 18, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
FOR LEASE OF SWADCAP FACILITY

The **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)**, a national government agency, through its **Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)**, is inviting interested parties and/or bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **LEASE TO OPERATE of the Social Welfare and Development Center for Asia and the Pacific (SWADCAP)**, a facility for training, conferences and other capability building activities located at Western Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila.

The SWADCAP building has a ground floor area of 1,300.50 square meters (0.13 ha.) and a second floor area totalling to 958.50 square meters (0.0958 ha.). It has an approximately total land area of three (3) hectares.

The Center has a total of forty (40) lodging rooms: twenty (20) at the Second Floor and the remaining half at the ground floor with one (1) room which can be used as office. In a three-in-a-room arrangement, it can house a total of one hundred twenty (120) occupants while in a four-in-a-room arrangement; a total of one hundred sixty (160) occupants can be accommodated. Each room has three (3) beds, one (1) refrigerator, one (1) television unit and one (1) air conditioning unit.

The present facilities are a plenary hall, two (2) conference rooms, meeting/workshop rooms, library, office, reproduction room, stock rooms, kitchen and pergola/dining room.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and secure the complete set of bidding documents, upon presentation of a letter of intent, from, **July 22 to 30, 2002** from Ms. Maricris Jacinto, BAC Secretariat, Property and Supply Division, Second Floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with Telephone Nos. (632) 931-8161, (632) 931-8101 to 07 local 125, and Fax No. (632) 951-7116.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **July 30, 2002 at 2:00 PM** to be held at the Administrative Conference Room, Second Floor, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.

Sealed application for eligibility and bid proposal, together with the bid security, must be delivered to the BAC Secretariat on or before **2:00 PM** of **August 7, 2002**. Thereafter, eligibility and bid envelopes will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representative(s) who choose to attend. Opening of bids will be held at the Administrative Conference Room, Second Floor, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. **Late bid proposals/quotations will not be accepted.**

DSWD hereby reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility and to bid, to waive any formality therein and/or accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson,
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- July 20 & 27, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
Region X
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos.: Mis Or Tel (08822) 72-65-89 PhilCom (088) 858-41-67
E-mail - niareg10@cdo philcom com ph Fax (088) 858-3256

July 26, 2002

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Invitation to Bid No. LMC 2002-04, Schedule 1

The NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA) REGIÓN 10 is inviting Interested Licensed contractors to pre qualify and to bid for the contract works at Bubunawan River Irrigation Project (Phase II) in Lingating, Baungon, Bukidnon

Contract Construction of Diversion Dam & Closed Conduit 0+000 - 0 + 140
Canal Structures 0+ 140 - 0+ 500
Approved Budget P 9,999,876 20
Maximum Contract Duration 270 Calendar days
Minimum Contractor's License : Medium "A"
Bill of Quantities

ITEM OF WORKS	UNIT	QUANTITY
Temporary Facilities, Mobilization & Demobilization	l s	l s
Diversion & Care of the River	l s	l s
Clearing & Grubbing	Sq m.	4,510 00
Structure Excavation		
a. Common Excavation	Cu m.	13,986 00
b. Rock Excavation	Cu m.	1,750 00
3,000 PSI Concrete		
a. Diversion Dam & Close Conduit Sta. 0+000-0+140	Cu m.	315 00
b. Canal Structure 0+140 - 0 + 500	cu m.	281 00
Rubble Masonry	cu m.	170 00
Reinforcing Steel Bars		
a. Furnishing of Materials	Kg	48,017 00
b. Cutting, Bending & Installation	Kg	48,017 00
Structure Backfill	cu m	6,168 00
Boulder Riprap	cu m.	500 00
Gravel Blanket	cu m	117 00
Filter Drain	cu.m.	40 00
Miscellaneous Metal Works		
a. G I Pipe Railings	l m	65 00
b. Trash Rack	kg	950 00
Steel Gate		
a. 0 90 m x 0 90 m	assy	2 00
b. 1 00 m x 1 00 m	assy	1 00
Water Stop	l m	5 00
Road Surfacing	cu m	140 00

Interested contracts are advised to observe the following schedules:

Last day of issuance of Eligibility Statement Forms - August 12, 2002
Last day for submission of accomplished Eligibility Statement: - August 19, 2002
Last day of Issuance of Bid Documents to qualified bidders - September 02, 2002
Pre-Bid Conference - September 10, 2002 2 00 p.m.
Opening of Bids. - September 26, 2002 2.00 p.m.

Only bidders eligible to bid shall be issued Bid Documents upon payment of P 3,000.00.

NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and accept submit proposals from the bidders whose bids is considered most advantageous to the government

(Sgd) JOHNNY V. EMMANUEL, CESO V
Regional Manager

(PDI--July 27, Aug. 4, 2002)

DISCLAIMER

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---

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1 SHOP SUPERVISOR

- M.E. with practical knowledge of Diesel Engines Hydraulic and subsystem of Trucks and Heavy Equipment. Must have good interpersonal skills.

1 MARKETING COORDINATOR

- Female, college graduate, with good communication skills, can work under pressure

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email: pacific@itextron.com

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 893-1320 Local 5115 Fax 840-1461

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as IAC MEDIUM A in Electrical Works or General Building - Building and Industrial Plants to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

LEYTE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
STAGE 8, SCHEDULE 2 (7 Barangays)
under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-144

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, including the supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to 7 Barangays located in the towns of Calubian and Leyte, Leyte.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o I. M. Corcuera) starting **July 27, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PHP100.00)

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than 5:00 p.m. of **August 12, 2002.**

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **August 19, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **September 6, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at Don Felipe Hotel, Ormoc City.** Site inspection to follow thereafter

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of September 19, 2002 then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) ESTER R. GUERZON
Manager, Operations Services Division

(PDI - July 27, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Science and Technology - Bids and Awards Committee (DOST-Wide BAC) hereby invites local suppliers, to apply for eligibility and to bid in the forthcoming public bidding for the project entitled "Appropriate Use of IT Facilities and New Technologies for Teaching-Learning Science". The approved budget for the purpose is P12,081,600.00 chargeable against SEI. The scope of works includes the supply, delivery, installation and testing of 305 units of PCs and 183 units of inkjet printers nationwide. The minimum specifications for the PC is Pentium III, 1000Mhz, Asustek motherboard (no built-in audio and video), 20.4 GB HDD; SMB AGP (video card not built-in); sound card (separate card), 15" SGVA color monitor, Windows Millenium Edition OEM, etc. For inkjet printers minimum specifications is 8ppm for black; 5ppm for colored; 110 true typefaces, etc. Warranty of PCs and printers is 3 years on labor, on site services and 1 year on parts except consumables.

Only those eligible bidders evaluated by the DOST-Wide BAC shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

All eligible bidders may secure the necessary documents on the following dates:

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	July 29-30, 2002, Rm. 207 DOST Bldg. Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	August 5, 2002 until 5:00 p.m. at Rm. 207, DOST Bldg , Gen. Santos Ave , Bicutan, Taguig
Issuance of bidding documents	August 7, 2002 Rm. 207 DOST Bldg
Pre-bid Conference	August 12, 2002; 10:00 a.m. / DOST Executive Lounge
Opening of bids	August 19, 2002; 10:00 a.m. /DOST Executive Lounge, Bicutan, Taguig

Prospective bidders may surf our DOST website addressed at: http//www dost gov ph.

The DOST-Wide BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality and make an award to the bidder whose bid proposal is the lowest calculated responsive bid and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOCELYN G. ALVARADO**
Assistant Secretary and
Chairperson, DOST-Wide BAC

(PDI--July 25 & 27, 2002)

ERRATUM

In the ad of the Department of Budget and Management Procurement Service System Inter-Agency Bids & Awards Committee, Secretariat Telefax No. should have been **(632) 563-9350** instead of (632) 563-9359.

Our apologies

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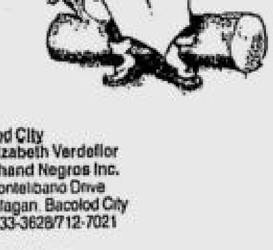

in **Visayas**

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MERITO B. ESPINAS

of the Bikol Region
went gently into that Good Night and into the Light
on July 24, 2002 at the age of 74.

He is survived by his wife Odilia,
daughters Tessa and Adora
grandchildren Kevin, Adrielle, Franz ...d Jared,
son-in-law Mark, and sister Minene.

His remains lie in state at his residence
in Purok 5, Rawis, Legazpi City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 30, 2002,
at the Bicol Memorial Park,
after the 2:00 p.m. Mass and Necrological Services
at St. Raphael Parish Church, Legazpi City.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

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...to Allah belongs what He took,
and to Him belongs what He gave,
and everything with Him has an appointed time...

Join us as we offer prayers for the late

Hon. BAGIS SASAPAN ISMAEL, Al Hajj

(RTC Judge, Jolo Sulu)

on the 40th day of his return to the Creator
(February 22, 1946 - June 16, 2002)

beloved wife Hja. Linda;
children & in-laws
Hja. **Dennie & Arnold, Al, Len, Dada, Nelson & Nadine, Iana**;
bereaved mother Hja. **Hulma Sasapan vda. de Ismael**;
living brothers & in-laws
Customs Collector Akram S. Ismael, Al Haj., Hja. **Suring** & children;
Haj. **Ton**, Hja. **Laida** & children;
Hja. **Beth** & children; **Darwisa** & children; Haj. **Maj** & child;
Haj. **Nasser**, Hja. **Anisa** & children

wishes to thank all those who paid their last respects
and grieved with them, offered prayers, sent messages of sympathy
and who in many countless ways comforted them
in the hour of their bereavement.

May Allah bless you all.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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"Our light affliction, which is but for a moment is working
for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."
2 Corinthians 4:7-18

First Death Anniversary
in Loving Memory of

Jean Agnes P. Hernando

(January 21, 1962 - July 30, 2001)

Her mother Juanita; her brothers and sisters Eugenio, Balbino & Sally, Carlito, Aurea, Francis & Marge; her niece Monica; her nephew Miguel; and her daughter Angelica

request relatives, friends and readers to remember her in their prayers and to join in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to be offered on:

July 28	*At Graveside, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina*	9:00 a.m.
	Holy Family Parish Church, Kapitolyo, Pasig City	6:00 a.m.
	Tierra Bella Chapel, Tierra Bella Homes, Quezon City	8:30 a.m.
July 30	*Holy Family Parish Church, Kapitolyo, Pasig City*	6:00 a.m.
	Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Broadway, Quezon City	9:00 a.m.
	Mount Carmel Monastery, Gilmore, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel, Camp Atienza, Libis, Quezon City	6:30 a.m.
	Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.

Col. Deogracias F. D'Bayan

of Manila-Parañaque

Peacefully joined his Creator
on Thursday, July 25, 2002 at the age of 60.

His loving wife **RITZIE**; children **Anthony Charles, Maria Dulce**; grandchildren **Bren Deo**, and **Beatriz**,
relatives and friends request the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Del Pilar Chapel,
La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Parañaque.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, July 30, 2002 at
Manila Memorial Park Crematorium.

BUTCH CLARIN SORIANO

Father of "Mga Munting Daliri"

Died in the Grace of the Lord on July 25, 2002 at the age of 59.

He is survived by his wife Adalia; children Mark, Mhay, Mon, and Mar, Dan; and his brothers, sisters, in-laws, nieces and nephews.

His remains lie in Mount Carmel Chapel, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 AM, Sunday, July 28, 2002.
Cremation will follow at 1:00 PM.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

BUSINESS

Gov't considers raising budget deficit target

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INTER-AGENCY Development Budget Coordinating Committee is preparing to revise its deficit target of P130 billion this year after discussing the simulations made by its technical working group showing that the fiscal gap this year could swell to more than P160 billion.

A Cabinet official who sits in the DBCC said that revising this year's deficit target was seriously discussed by the economic team in its meeting last Thursday. The review followed the government's announcement that its fiscal gap in the first half ballooned to P119.7 billion against a target of P78.26 billion.

"But we haven't approved anything yet. We will discuss it again next week and also ask the Cabinet's approval," the government official said.

Another government source admitted that containing the budget gap this year at P130 billion was not likely. When the first half deficit was announced last Tuesday, the government stressed that it was still sticking to its deficit target.

Market players were claiming that the government should revise its deficit target now rather than end the year with a huge fiscal slippage that would only erode the confidence of the private sector.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura earlier said that a fiscal slippage of 10 to 20 percent against the target would still be acceptable but would not be good for investors' perception.

Based on estimates of the technical working group, the fiscal gap target could be exceeded by between P28 billion and P33 billion to push the deficit to at least P158 billion.

The technical group, based on these estimates, said that revenue collection would be reduced to between P590 billion and P596 billion against the target of P624 billion while expenditures would be kept at P754 billion.

Skipping any decision on this year's deficit, the DBCC instead approved the adjustment of the growth and fiscal gap targets for next year. The new numbers would be submitted for the Cabinet's approval on Tuesday.

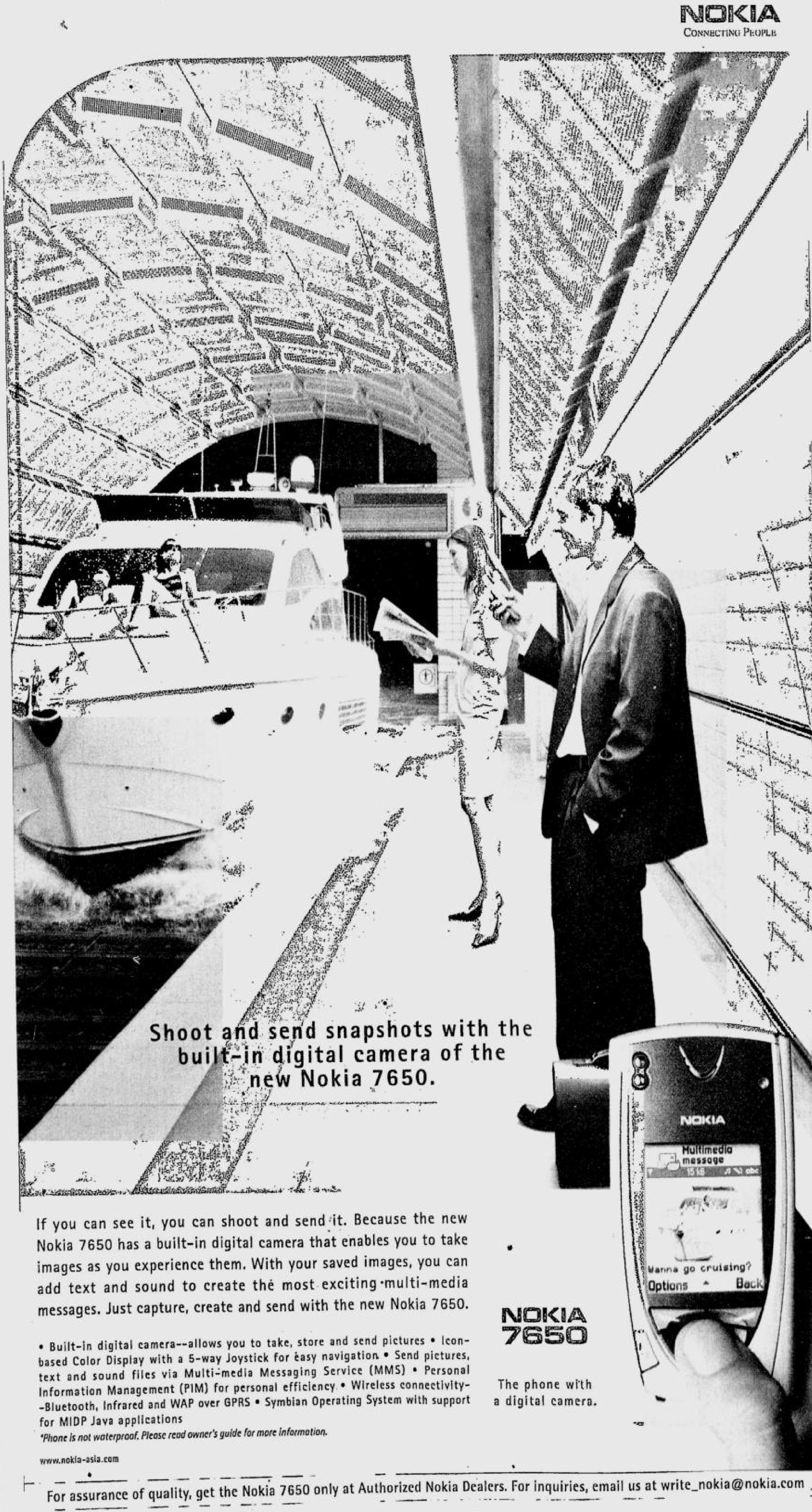
A government source said the DBCC had approved the cut in the gross domestic and national product targets by 0.5 percentage point while the deficit target would be revised to between P130 billion and P140 billion from an earlier target of P99 billion for 2003.

From a target of 5.4 to 5.9 percent, the economic team brought down the GDP target range to 4.9 to 5.4 percent while the projection for GNP growth of 5.5 to 6 percent could be downscaled to 5 to 5.5 percent.

A measure of economic growth, GDP is the sum of goods and services produced locally while GNP includes the income from abroad largely brought in by overseas workers.

The DBCC was scheduled to meet anew next week to deliberate on the recommendation to adjust the deficit target this year. Much of the swollen deficit was blamed on the poor government collection, which was short by about P35 billion during the first half.

While the budget department has P83 billion in funding that it can choose not to release, withholding all of these funds may have serious repercussions on growth and is therefore not an attractive option.



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US firm joins search for oil in Palawan area

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PEREZ

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. yesterday announced that a US-based company has joined a local exploration consortium looking for oil and natural gas in Northwest Palawan.

Perez said in a statement that Rock Oil International has committed to invest $300,000 (P15 million) or a 5-percent stake in Service Contract 6-A, which covers an area of 164,838 hectares in offshore Palawan.

He said Rock Oil signed a deed of assignment last July 17 making it officially a part of the consortium.

Philodrill Corp. leads the consortium which groups Oriental Petroleum and Minerals Corp., Petrofields Corp., Trans-Asia Oil, Vulcan Mining Corp., Basic Consolidated and Mining Corp., Anglo-Philippines Inc., Philex Mining Corp., San Jose Oil, Seafront Resources, Alcorn Petroleum and Phoenix Petroleum.

The group has so far served seven years of the 25-year service contract.

Perez said the energy department had given the go-ahead for the farm-in after having found Rock Oil financially qualified to join the consortium.

He added that the American firm was expected to sign an agreement with the consortium soon, but he did not give details on how much Rock Oil's stake would be.

Perez noted that Rock Oil's entry came after two geophysical survey and exploration contracts (GSECs) were awarded to firms based in the United Kingdom and in Japan.

Last month, the official announced the awarding of GSEC 101 to United Kingdom's Sterling Energy Ltd. allowing the firm to conduct a feasibility study on the economic viability of a gas discovery in the Reed Bank area northwest of Palawan.

GSEC 101 covers a 1,036,000-hectare offshore area, data on which showed considerably big structures that contain gas confirmed by earlier discoveries in the 1990s.

The Department of Energy said over the weekend that it has inked with a Japanese firm an exploration contract for oil and gas covering the Visayan petroleum basin.

Also, GSEC 102 has been awarded to Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. (Japex), which gives Japex 18 months to conduct geophysical surveying activities at a projected cost of P10 million and an automatic extension of another 18 months if Japex decided to drill an exploratory well that would cost about P150 million.

"The entry of (these) foreign firms indeed boosts our upstream exploration initiatives," Perez said earlier. "This only proves the great potential of the Philippines as an investment site in the oil and gas sectors."

July inflation seen below 3.3%

BUENAVENTURA

THE COUNTRY'S inflation rate for July was expected to be below 3.3 percent year-on-year, aided by stable food prices and cheaper electricity charges, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura told Reuters yesterday.

In a telephone interview, Buenaventura said the low rate would reflect the country's "stable food prices, stable exchange rate, low interest rates, stable fuel prices and reductions in the PPA (purchased power adjustment charges billed to electricity consumers)."

In June, the inflation rate reached 3.0 percent, a 28-month low and well below the central bank's own estimate of just under 3.6 percent.

Asked if the benign inflation conditions could continue, Buenaventura said: "Clearly our inflation rates for the rest of the year should come in below (the government) target, barring any unforeseen events."

The government has forecast inflation to average 4.5-5.5 percent this year.

SATURDAY,
JULY 27, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C1

SATURDAY Special

Editor **Nestor U. Torre** ◎ Associate Editor **Edmund L. Sicam**

Summer movies feature creature campiness

By Anthony Breznican

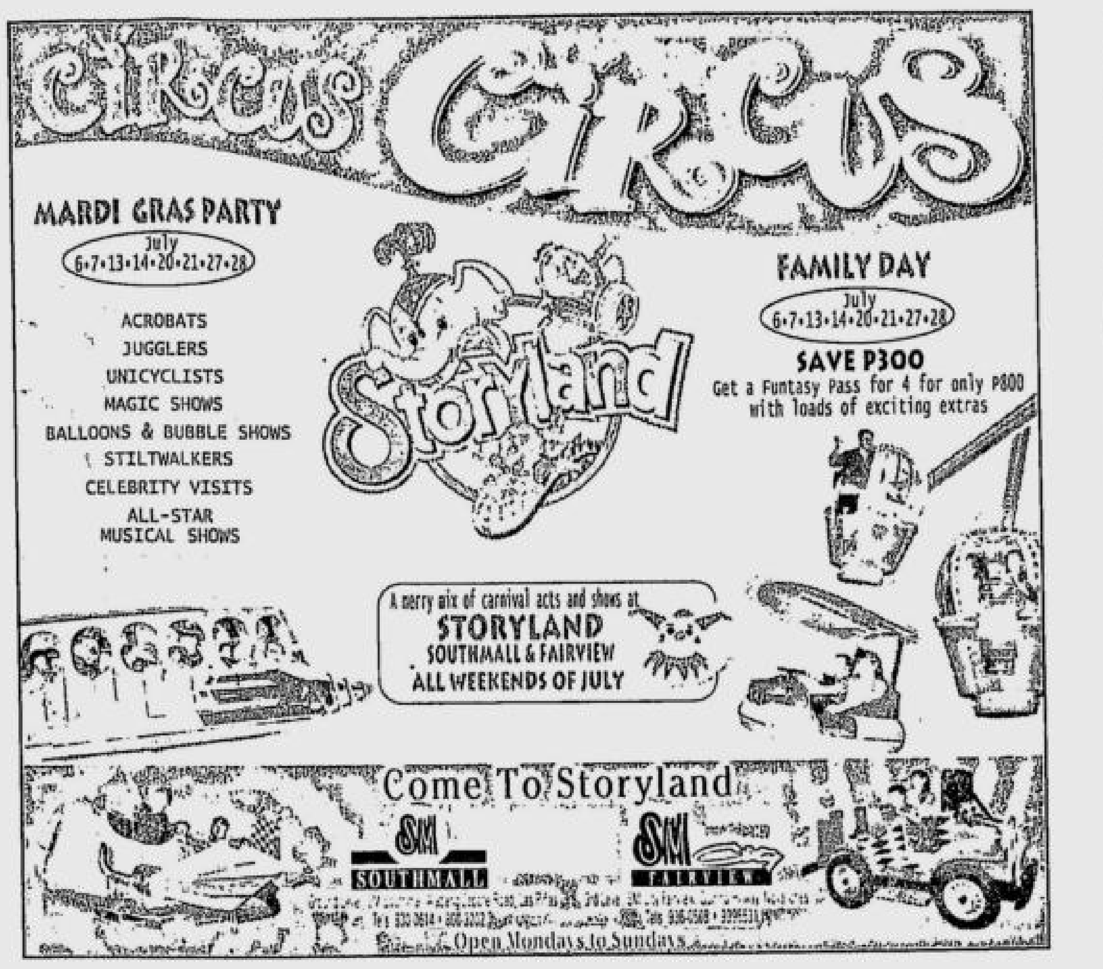
IN "Eight-Legged Freaks," giant spiders rule.

LOS ANGELES—Watch out, moviegoers! It's the attack of the Clones! Attack of the Scorpion King! Attack of the Crocodile Hunter! And now . . . attack of the Eight-Legged Freaks!!!

Swarm

Summer has seen a swarm of big-budget movies trying to mimic the campy excess of old-fashioned B movies, known for bare-knuckle brawlers, outer-space melodrama and gigantic mutant bugs.

SUMMER/ p. C2



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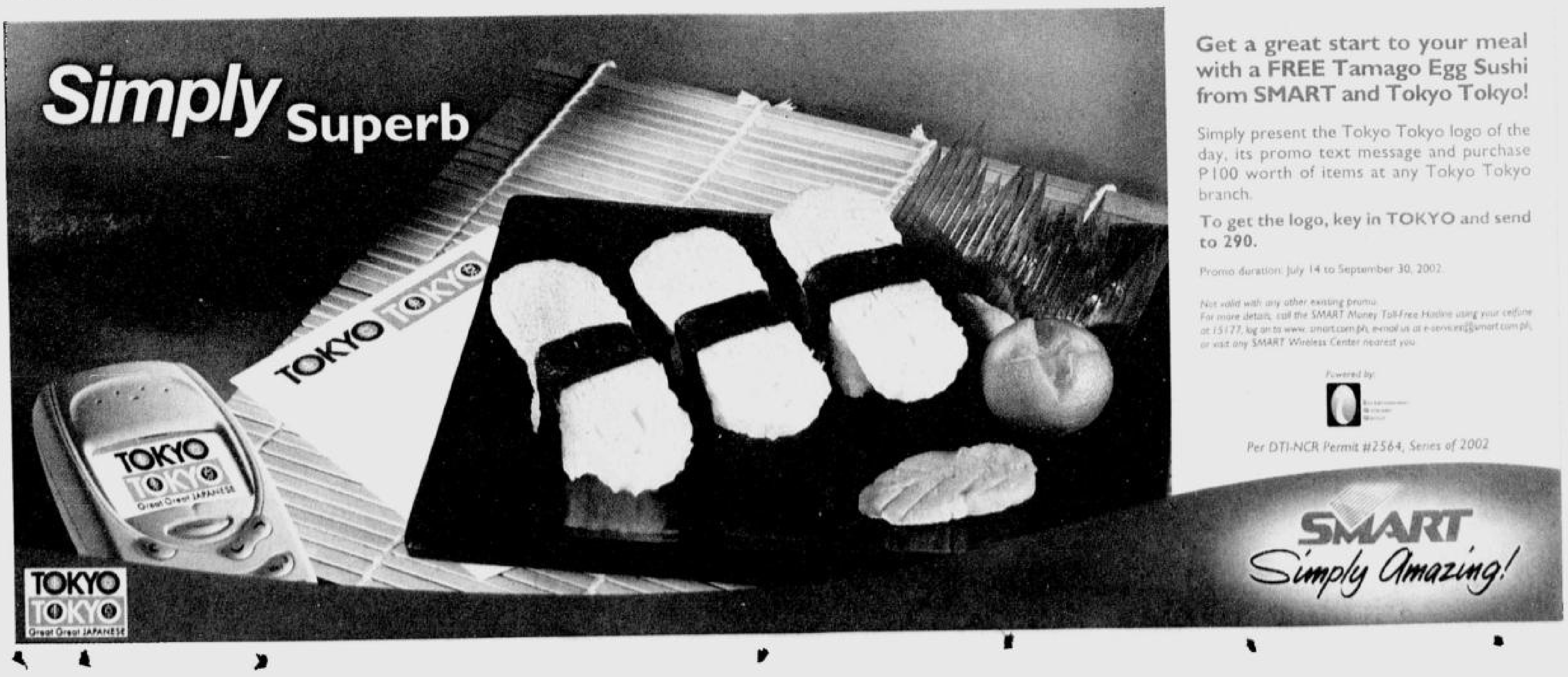

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'Diwa': The way we were—and will continue to be

By Nestor U. Torre

SHOWING on IBC-13 every Tuesday at 10 p.m. is film master Eddie Romero's latest monumental work, the 13-part historical TV drama series, "Diwa." We urge you to watch it every week, to benefit from its informed view of the evolution of Filipino culture.

Significant theme

You'll agree that a TV series that dramatizes such a significant theme is a rarity on local television. All the more reason then for us to make it a point to watch it regularly, until it culminates in September.

All too often, we huffily complain that local TV insults the intelligence of its viewers. Well, here's a series that does the opposite—it challenges us to be at our most thoughtful and intellectually engaged—so the least we can do is to view it.

Who knows, despite our vaunted and self-satisfied intelligence, it could teach us a thing or two—or 10.

All of the episodes are written by Eddie Romero, who also directs the last installment. The first three episodes are directed by Celso Ad. Castillo. They encompass our tribal origins, the development of small Moro kingdoms, then the growing Moro empire.

Fyke Cinco directs the fourth episode, which is set in 1590. The next episode, on the coming of Spanish missionaries, is megged by Joey Romero.

Then comes our first experience with revolt, the Palaris uprising in Pangasinan, in the episode directed by Mel Chionglo. He also megs the seventh installment, set in 1835, on the opening of sugar plantations in the south.

The 1897 revolution in Manila is the scope of the eighth episode, megged by Gil Portes. Next comes the early American occupation (1915), directed by Tikoy Aguiluz.

Three episodes

This is followed by three episodes megged by Joel Lamangan, set in a town in Northen Mindanao, from 1941 to 1946. Romero's concluding episode is on the First Quarter Storm in 1967.

ROMERO. TV-film master.

Why not bring the long narrative up to contemporary times? Because, Romero notes wryly, the country's situation really hasn't changed all these years.

Why did Romero decide to make his latest masterwork, which took years to research and secure financing for? The esteemed filmmaker replies that it really wasn't a matter of "deciding."

As indicated by some of his other major works—"Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon," "Aguila," "Kamakalawa," the "Noli Me Tangere" TV series—he's "always been obsessed with understanding and dramatizing how we've developed as a people." Then, rogueishly, "It's in my nature. Like the nymphomaniac said, 'What can I do?'" *(To be concluded)*

Jollibee
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Before
Langhap Sarap Jollibee

Judy Ann Santos plays a high school teacher in new film

By Edmund L. Sicam

THERE was a time in her career when Judy Ann Santos believed like some movie stars do that any publicity, whether good or bad, is still publicity. Today, the actress knows better. She told us during the presscon for her latest movie, "Pakisabi Na Lang...Mahal Ko Siya" that when media hit at her family, she feels very bad.

Libel suit

Recently, for instance, Judy Ann was all set to file a libel suit against a tabloid writer for saying that all was not well in her household, and calling the actress all sorts of names. The articles hurt her so much that she was forced to seek legal recourse. However, when she found out that Sharon Cuneta was filing a suit against the same writer for maligning her husband, Judy Ann gave way to the Megastar. She figured her suit would be more effective if it was filed later.

Judy Ann believes that movie stars have a right to privacy even if they are public figures. For her, that means her family should be spared from media scrutiny.

When it comes to her private life, she realizes that media will always try to pry. *"Hindi maiiwasan. Pero wala naman akong ginawa na ikahihiya ko,* so *di masyadong problema yun."*

A lot to learn

Judy Ann says she still has a lot to learn after 14 years as an actress. *"Akala ko dati, alam ko na lahat. Kaya ko nang lusutan ang lahat ng pasikut-sikot. Marami pa pala akong dapat matutuhan!"*

Judy Ann's pensive mood changed when we congratulated her on the critical and box-office success of her last project "Magkapatid." She called it an event movie, something that comes only once in a blue moon. She hopes that a similar project will land on her lap soon.

(One writer suggested a team-up with Vilma Santos, which Judy Ann admitted was a great idea. The same writer half-seriously suggested "Anak ng Burlesk Queen" as a possible title.)

SANTOS. Now essaying more mature characters.

It's a pity that producers will not experiment on new concepts for Judy Ann, aside from the usual light romance or heavy drama projects, because the star is interested. She understands the producers' predicament, however, because they have to look at the profitability of a movie project. They have to consider the competition and the drawing power of the lead stars before they look at the storyline.

Judy Ann's latest project is somewhat different because in it, she plays an older character, not the usual teenybopper. She is a teacher who is the object of her student's (Cogie Domingo) infatuation. In a supporting role is Alessandra De Rossi, who plays Cogie's tomboyish friend and No. 1 heckler. Eventually, Cogie falls madly in love with Judy Ann but he has to contend with her attraction to a PE instructor (KC Montero).

Aiza Seguerra hit

The movie title is based on a hit popularized by Aiza Seguerra. Another Aiza hit, "Akala Mo" was the title of Judy Ann's last team-up with Dingdong Dantes.

In "Magakapatid," she also had an older role as a mother with a young child. Does this mark her transition to more mature roles? After all, she is already 24 years old.

If her next project is any indication, the transition may take a little longer. We heard that the love team of Judy Ann and Piolo Pascual is being revived.

Summer movies . . .

From p. C1

The makers of these deliberately cheeky stories know their films are lowbrow and they don't care. Part of the appeal of these expensive B pictures is that they don't take themselves seriously.

"I'm not after respect. I'm out to have a good time," said Ellory Elkayem, co-writer and director of "Eight Legged Freaks." "It's a compliment to be compared to a B movie."

In his film, toxic waste creates a horrific horde of gargantuan spiders that devour the inhabitants of a small desert town, following in the chewy, gooey tradition of insect invasion movies like 1955's "Tarantula" and 1977's "Empire of the Ants."

"I'm especially into 'creature features' and thought, 'Gee, wouldn't it be cool to do one of those in this day and age with modern technology?,'" Elkayem said.

Double features

In the days of double features, the "B movie" was typically a low-budget, science fiction, horror or adventure story that was shown in theaters after the more prestigious "A" picture (with its bigger stars and better production values).

As double features disappeared, the term "B movie" came to mean any genre picture or movie serial that sacrificed quality to keep costs low.

"The B type of movie skews reality. It has exploitative themes and monsters and exaggerated cliffhanger moments. And that's their charm," said cult movie scholar Tom Weaver, whose books include "I Was a Monster Moviemaker" and "They Fought in the Creature Features."

B films are often marked by elaborate, declarative titles like "The Killer Shrews," "Teenagers from Outer Space" and "Creature from the Haunted Sea." More recent B fare often adds sex to the formula, as in 1988's "Sorority Babes in the Slimeball Bowl-O-Rama."

The strong following behind those innocent, older B films has prompted some current A-list filmmakers to try recreating the flawed charm of the originals with state-of-the-art production values.

Outright parodies

Some of those films have been outright parodies, like Tim Burton's 1996 comedy "Mars Attacks!" and 1978's tongue-in-cheek "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes."

But even "Star Wars," one of the most popular and profitable movie franchises of all time, was conceived as an homage to the kind of B pictures in which you could often see the string dangling the wobbly spaceship.

"Star Wars" creator George Lucas wanted to tell the same kind of stories as "Flash Gordon" and "Captain Marvel," but he also wanted to make it look real.

"I started out with a modest little movie that was designed to be in the motif of a 1930s action-adventure serial that they used to show on Saturday matinees," Lucas said. "So the whole style was kind of '30s and very cliffhangerish."

Even the title of his latest film, "Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones," is an homage to cult movies like "Attack of the Puppet People" (1958) and "Attack of the Giant Leeches" (1959).

While "Eight-Legged Freaks" had a midlevel budget of $30 million, "Attack of the Clones" cost upward of $120 million. Most of the B movies of the 1940s and 1950's were priced in the tens of thousands, according to Weaver.

"That wouldn't pay for six seconds of most of these new movies," he joked.

Comparisons

"The Scorpion King," which cost about $60 million, drew comparisons to Arnold Schwarzenegger's "Conan the Barbarian" (1982) for its muscleman barbarism. But it also echoed the beefcake battling of older "sword and sandal" B movies like "Son of Samson" (1960) and "The Terror of Rome Against the Son of Hercules" (1963).

"It's a throwback to the old days when there were no guns, just guys with swords going at it," said "Scorpion King" star Dwayne Johnson, *aka* The Rock.

"The Scorpion King" was not opposed to making a wisecrack to deflate a weighty scene, and that campy humor is what sets a B film apart from sword-fighting prestige pictures like 1960's "Spartacus" and 2000's "Gladiator." *AP*

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MIB II : SHOWING AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE

What viewers like and don't like about local TV newscasters

By Noelani Torre

NEWSCASTERS play a vital role in information dissemination. People more or less trust them and believe what they're saying to be fact. The way a newscaster delivers the news can affect the way the public receives it.

Credibility (or at least the ability to appear credible) is a requirement for good newscasters, as is as a newscasting style that will appeal to most viewers. Is this what we get from our local television newscasters? Some viewers' observations:

Power-tripping

"*Mas marami akong gustong mga babaeng* newscasters *keysa sa lalaki, kagaya nina* Tina Monzon-Palma at Mel Tiangco. *Mas malalakas ang loob nila na bumatikos sa mga kailangang ibatikos.*

"*Ang mga babaeng* newscasters, *natural lang magsalita, di katulad ng ibang mga lalakeng* newscasters *na masyadong pa-macho ang* effect. *Masakit sa tainga at* sensationalistic *ang labas."—Royce Sy, Quezon City.*

Beautiful newscasters

"I notice that they always promote the beautiful newscasters like Bernadette Sembrano, but the less pretty ones, even if they've been reporting the news for 10 years or more, are kept in the background.

"I don't like it when they include totally irrelevant things in their news reports, things that don't affect the lives of the people. I also don't like it that the networks are too competitive with each other."—*Farah Casim Canezal, North Cotabato.*

Scripted

"*Sobrang inis ako sa mga katulad ni* Erwin Tulfo *kasi* feeling *niya lagi siyang tama, at pag na*-prove *na mali siya, hindi siya marunong mag*-apologize.

"*Hindi naman ang mga newscaster ang gumagawa ng* legwork *para sa mga reports nila at* scripted *pa yon, pero ang yabang-yabang nila kung magsalita. Masyadong* opinionated for a news report, *nakakainis talaga."—Katrina Valencia, Pampanga.*

Objectivity

"What I don't like about local newscasters is that they get too involved with show biz. There's too much politicking and show biz-ing and at times it affects the quality of their news reports. They lose their objectivity, like Korina Sanchez, who annoys me. There's a proper time and place for opinion.

"Others use their shows to promote their personal concerns. And I heard that a number of them accept bribes. What I kinda like is that they give not so good-looking people a chance to deliver the news. In general, though,I see a lack of professionalism."—*Tinsly Moore, Makati.*

Calm delivery

"*Ayoko kay* Mike Enriquez *kasi parang nanggugulat siya lagi. 'Pag nagde*-deliver ng

WHAT/ p. C7

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Backstage and onstage with Parokya ni Edgar

By Jocelyn Valle

IT'S 6 p.m., and Onstage in Greenbelt 1, Makati City, is curiously dark, with the mirror ball positioned above the stage as the only source of light. Settling into a front-row seat, we realize that a technical rehearsal is going on.

Lyrics

And we're positive that it's not the usual pre-show procedure as we watch the musicians on stage mess up the lyrics of Creed's "My Sacrifice," eliciting snickers from a handful of stagehands and technicians. Parokya ni Edgar, after all, is the featured artist (with Moonstar 88 as front act) this Friday night.

Chito Miranda (vocals), Vinci Montaner (back-up vocals), Buwi Meneses (bass), DinDin Moreno (drums), Darius Semaña and Gabriel CheeKee (guitars) have been entertaining the public with amusing tunes and hilarious antics for the last eight years (they first played together in 1994 at Club Dredd, where they also launched their debut album, "Khangkhungkherrhitz," two years after), and they've inevitably grown up.

Unaffected

Thankfully, it's only their musicality that has changed (it's tighter and richer now). They've remained unaffected (they don't feel the need for enhanced PR skills, for instance) and unpredictable, making their jokes and gimmicks sure-fire hits.

The merriment at Onstage continues as DinDin, who is said to be the most *mabait* ("can't hurt a fly," says the band's drum technician, Kerwin Rosete) takes off his shirt and runs off the stage.

In a sofa on stage left, Chito wakes up from slumber and gets up on his feet to light the candles scattered nearby. Vinci gives his bandmate a hand as the others test the combined effects of the candlelight and the mirror ball in the darkened theater.

Definitely, this is not like Parokya's usual gigs. How did the guys come up with the idea for the Onstage show? The band's manager, Richard Tan, who's sitting beside us, shrugs. They're only finalizing everything at the moment.

Kerwin later shares that everybody came two hours earlier, when they started the sound check. They wanted to iron out all the kinks before showtime, he points out.

Smaller gigs

Aside from Kerwin, Parokya ni Edgar's production team is composed of sound technician Rommel Cajayon and stage coordinators Ruel Sotto and Gilbert Magat. In smaller gigs, only Kerwin and Gilbert go with the band.

Sometimes, they do more than check on and set up the band's instruments. Kerwin, for instance, pinch-hit for Buwi when the bassist was in mourning for his departed mother.

How is it like working with Parokya ni Edgar? Kerwin, who also manages a punk-comic band called Kamikaze, beams: "*Lahat sila* OK." He adds that he enjoys his job because he feels that he's not really working.

He discloses that DinDin, Gab, Chito and Darwin are always on time, while Buwi is the perennial latecomer. His memorable experience with the band, he relates, happened during his first out-of-town trip with them.

One afternoon in a hotel in Dagupan, Kerwin recalls, somebody knocked on his door. It was Buwi—in his birthday suit! When they heard (the floor where they were billeted was just below the reception area) that some people were checking in, they all locked up, leaving the naked Buwi scampering for cover. Fortunately for him, a kindhearted band member let him in, just in time for the new guests' arrival. *(To be concluded)*

Dear Clara

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

I'M going to write a book. Please don't laugh. I've thought about this before, but I really didn't get around to doing it. Perhaps because the book I had in mind then wasn't really the kind God wanted me to write.

Secrets

In all the years I've been in show business, many movie stars have welcomed me to their bedroom of secrets. A lot of these secrets haven't lost any of the pulp bits which make them the juiciest morsels of gossip anytime, but the people involved, I'd like to believe, wouldn't mind—especially because there should be catharsis from the unraveling of the sins of the past.

Without a doubt, my book would be a bestseller—people would gobble it up even before it could reach the bookstores. But I'm not really inclined to write that book anymore. Frankly, I now look at the writing of such a book as a bore. I mean, what for? At this stage in my life, I've found that many of the things I first thought exciting don't tickle me anymore.

I'd like to write little letters to my darling Clara. I'd then gather all the letters, ask some editor to make heads or tails of them, and interest some publisher to print them in a book. After coming face-to-face with my mortality, I am awed by the utter preciousness of my life and all the little and big lessons it has taught me. I've collected quite a few of these nuggets, and I now wish to bequeath them to my daughter.

Mothering

In all humility, I submit that I pretty much botched up the mothering I did on my two older children. I did my best, I gave my all, I even overstretched myself, trying to give them everything I could. But then, a cripple can never really show her children the proper way to walk. A hunchback could hardly be the right person to demonstrate correct posture!

Somebody once said, parents work long and hard everyday to give the best of everything to their children, when they should just spend a few, precious moments daily to give them the best of *themselves*.

That hurt. It hit me hard, real hard. Indeed, it is only by the grace of God that my Dolly and Ricky are finding their way in their own personal journeys. I set them off with everything except a road map to where their individual destinies lay. (Tough luck that there's no course in college on motherhood. But then again, even if there were, I'd have flunked it.)

I'm confident that Dolly and Ricky are turning out to be the best they could ever be. Time will come when they will come into their own, and they will soar to heights only they can put limits to. After all, they have the best education and the best genes, too. They just need to find the courage with which they can go to the edge, and jump. When they are finally able to do that, they'll discover they won't fall—they will fly!

Circumstances

There was a time when I soaked a hundred hankies crying over my inability to give Clara all the things I've been able to shower Dolly and Ricky with. Times have changed. So have many of the circumstances of our lives. But the few that remain have held us together tighter than it could have been possible, had the situation been different. And they have pounded into us certain values we would have ignored, had the paradigms not shifted to what they are today.

Quite clearly, I now see that the pruning that happened in my life is doing Clara a lot of good. And it, too, has set off the process of healing in me.

I'd like to believe that I'm no longer a cripple. And, I can feel that, instead of curving it, the turbulent years have straightened up my back. I can now show Clara how to walk, and what correct posture is. Good thing that she's still young and pliant enough—and she still allows me to hold the reins of influence over her choices and decisions in life.

I'd like to talk to her about life, love, and friendships—and how they can all go awry with just a single wrong turn. I'd like to tell her about joy as opposed to happiness, about contentment as opposed to abundance, and about peace as opposed to success.

Discoveries

I'd like to share with her my own discoveries—how loving and losing can be similar when the condition of the heart is not right, how letting go can be the better option than winning because the priceless things in life don't need a medal, how dying to self and living for others are the key to finding one's purpose in life.

THE AUTHOR and her darling Clara, some years ago.

In the process, I'd also be sharing my thoughts with all of you starting next week, I'm going to write my letters for Clara in this nook. I realize there may be some hidden perils as there may be some instances when I'll need to unravel myself. But I'm willing to take the risks. After all, this is for my daughter.

I'm going to call the book "Dear Clara." It will be a very simple book. Definitely, it won't be a philosophical discourse or psychological treatise on life because, for sure, I don't pretend to have all the answers.

Besides, in life, the hardest answers to find are for questions that don't need to be asked in the first place. Because life is not about questions and answers—but about hearts we touch, relationships we hold dear, and meanings we find in how we choose to live it.

The book will be dedicated to Dolly and Ricky—and to their children, all of whom I so dearly love. It will be my way of kissing each of them in their hearts, where their future throbs.

And, yes, I'll also dedicate the book to my dad and mom. It will be my way of hugging them once more. Sweet is the hug of parents to children who have lost their way—but sweeter still is it to those who have found their way back home.

Yes, Dad and Mom, I'm back. It's nice to be home.

(Inday Badiday can be reached by e-mail through badids2000@yahoo.com)

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'Ara Mina...Like a Virgin' staged tonight

By Edmund L. Sicam

WHEN sexy star Ara Mina auditioned for "That's Entertainment" many years ago, it was her singing that convinced *Kuya* Germs that he had a star on his hands. Ara says, "I really love to sing. *Tandang tanda ko pa* when I was 15, *ang lagi kong kinakanta mga* songs ni Regine Velasquez like "Sana'y Maulit Muli." *Hindi talaga ako tumigil hangga't di ko naabot ang* high notes *ng kanta niya.*"

On hold

Many years later, the movies discovered her and launched her career as a bold star. She had to put her singing on hold while she got one offer after another to bare her physical assets. After several films, Ara proved to everyone that there was more to her than being a sex symbol. After doing such prestigious films as Chito Rono's "Laro Sa Baga," she got noticed for her dramatic talent.

Ara, however, never gave up on her musical career. She accepted singing engagements abroad in between movies, just so she could go back to her first love. For sure, there were men who watched her concerts to see her curves in person but her singing made the concerts doubly satisfying.

The actress caught the attention of Star Records executives who wanted to ride on the popularity of sexy songs. She was offered a record deal and that made her very happy. "I really dreamed of recording my own album someday. My dream finally came true."

ARA MINA. Singing is her first love.

Two of the hits from her two albums were "Ay, Ay, Ay Pag-Ibig" and "Oops, Teka Lang." The latter became controversial because it was used as the theme song for a movie trailer and the MTRCB found the song too suggestive for a general audience.

After her albums were released, she got more offers to do concerts here and abroad. One of her memorable foreign shows was when she shared the stage with Martin Nievera and his dad Bert at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas. Locally, she's done several shows at the Casino Filipino and the Music Museum.

Naughty title

Today, she comes out in a concert with a naughty title "Ara Mina...Like a Virgin," but Virgin in this case refers to the venue, Virgin cafe, located on Tomas Morato ave. near the corner of Timog ave. We were pleasantly surprised to hear that she is directing her own show. We didn't realize that aside from her involvement in the restaurant business (she's one of the owners of Osteria, an Italian restaurant, also on Tomas Morato ave.), she is also interested in directing. "*Medyo nakakaka*-tense, *kasi* first time (now you know why the show is called "Like a Virgin") *kong mag-direk ng sarili kong* show, *pero* excited *ako kasi akin talaga ang* concept. *Akong umisip ng* lighting, sounds *at iba pang* technical aspects *ng* show.."

Ara's guest in the show is Slapshock. She has also invited "surprise" performers. The concert's repertoire includes "Reflection" from Walt Disney's "Mulan," "Dancing Queen," hits by the Corrs, Mandy Moore, Selena and Madonna, and a medley of Ara's signature songs.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Detailed study of effects of obscenity and pornography

By Noelani Torre

"SINCE its very beginning, the motion picture industry has been the target of criticism directed at the sexual content and themes in movies. Today, there are general release films (films produced and distributed by well-known companies, starring well-known actors, and exhibited in 90 percent or more of the theaters) which are sexually quite explicit.

Target

They are the target of the strongest criticism because of their nationwide distribution to large, diversified audiences. This criticism is magnified because of the large volume of newspaper advertising, gossip columns and stories, pictures and articles appearing in periodicals."

A description of the issues plaguing the movie industry in the Philippines? Not at all. This is a statement from "The Report of the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography" (A New York Times Book), and it describes the state of the United States' motion picture industry several decades ago.

If it bears a resemblance to that of the Philippines' today (and that of the past several decades, for that matter), it only shows that sex is still the most marketable, and the most argued over, of all topics.

Hot issues

Pornography and obscenity were hot issues in the Philippines just a few years ago. In truth, anything relating to sex will always attract attention in this conservative country, but the furor that resulted after the emergence of certain sexually explicit Filipino films a few years back seemed to be unprecedented.

We are used to skin flicks and *bomba* films. We see their billboards and posters all over the metropolis and we have generally become "immune" to them, though the recent debates appear to indicate otherwise.

For a while, the most popular debate topics were art, obscenity, pornography, and censorship. We remember such questions as, when is sexual depiction art, and when is it pornography? Does pornography lead people to commit acts of sexual violence? Is censorship good or bad?

There were those who grumbled that this sort of thing wouldn't have happened in other more liberal and enlightened countries, like the States, where Freedom of Speech is continually upheld.—Or wouldn't it?

Most people are unaware, or have forgotten, that twice in less than two decades, the United States government tried to restrict sexually explicit materials. "The Report of the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography" is the result of their first effort. *(To be conlcuded)*

GARCIA. Impressive staying power.

Eddie Garcia, living legend

By Remy M. Umerez

ACTOR and living legend Eddie Garcia's career spans five decades. As far as staying power is concerned, it is comparable to the long-lasting careers of Ronnie Poe Jr. and Dolphy.

Staying power

The title of his new action-comedy aptly describes the veteran actor—"D'Uragons," a Bicol term for "*magaling*" or champion. When asked about the secret of his staying power, he says it boils down to three words: Love your work.

Eddie had played godfather to a number of newcomers who eventually made it on their own—Bayani Agbayani, Janno Gibbs, Blakdyak, Rustom Padilla, Joko Diaz and Willie Revillame, to name a few.

Humility

Another trait which Eddie possesses is humility, a reason why he stays on top. Asked how many trophies he has received, a simple "*nakalimutan ko na*" is his brief reply.

He has remained a very private person, always skipping questions about his personal life. Eddie believes that his private life is of no interest to the moviegoers, only his acting is.

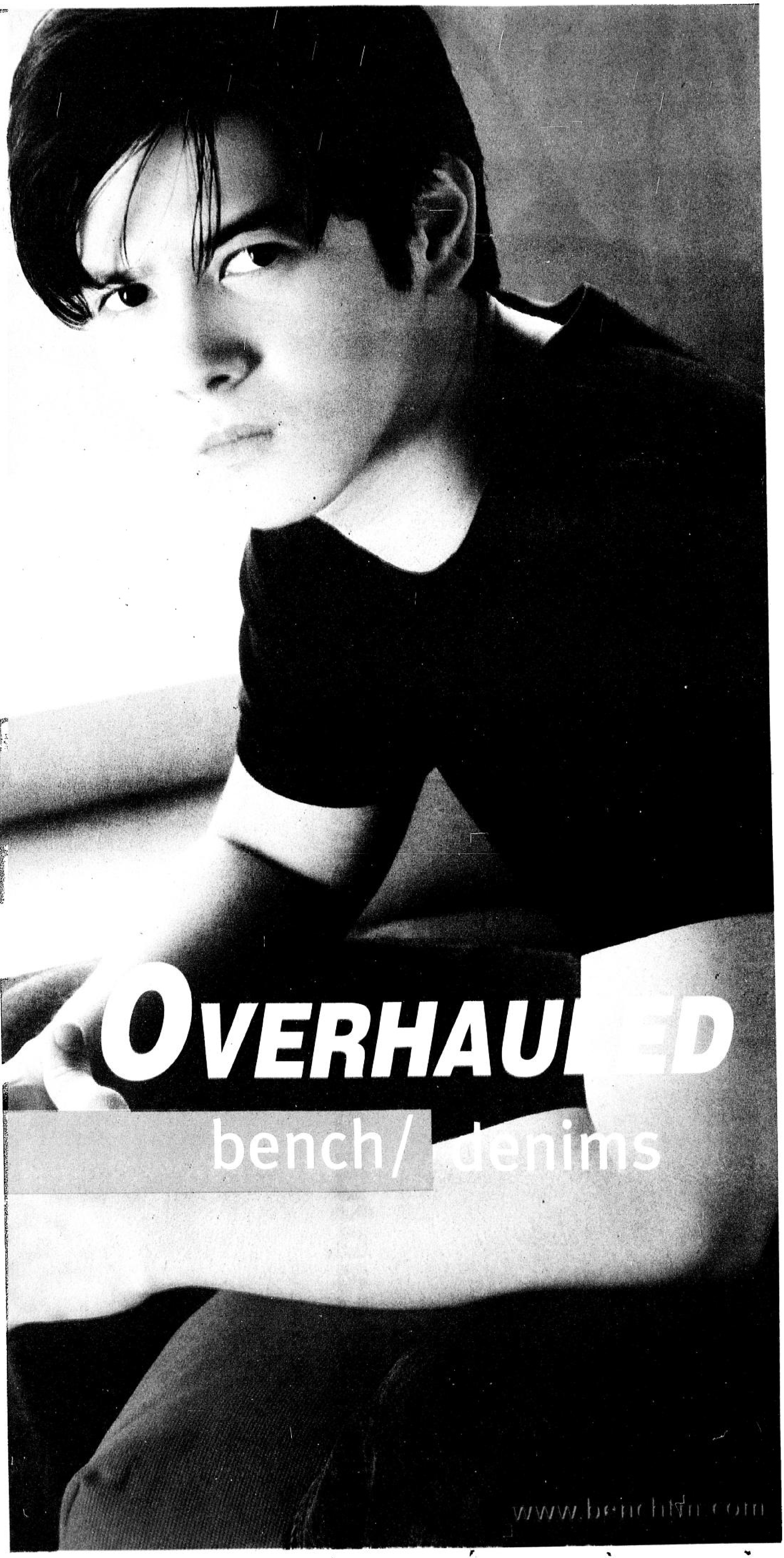
Punctuality has become Eddie's trademark, and Angelu de Leon, his leading lady in "D'Uragons" can testify to this:

"He comes to the set prepared. *Walang nasasayang na oras at handa na ang costume na kailangan niyang gamitin.* Tito Ed has devised a system via colored codes that he marks on his working chart. This way, *hindi nagkakabuhol-buhol* ang shooting schedules *niya.*"

Private detective

"D'Uragons" is written and directed by Ben Feleo. Eddie plays Sherlock, a private detective hailed as a hero when he saves a child's life from kidnappers. As a reward, he is hired by Don Serafin, the child's grandfather, to take care of the family's security and business. Andrew E. plays a streetsmart character who idolizes Sherlock and vows to become his slave—whether he likes it or not!

Manoy has withstood the test of time. Despite the fact that he is seen on the tube five times a week (on the *teleserye* "Kung Mawawala Ka" over GMA-7), moviegoers eagerly anticipate his big-screen performances.



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LIBRE

Meet the MTRCB's new chair, Ms Mari-len Dinglasan

By Edmund L. Sicam

(Conclusion)

WHEN Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was undersecretary of trade, MTRCB chairman Mari-len Dinglasan recalls telling her former classmate, "'Gloria, why don't you throw your hat into the ring? You have the name, the intelligence and the moral standing. Your work ethic is admirable.' She just shrugged it off at that time but eventually, she did make her bid for the senate, and the rest as they say is history," Ms Dinglasan observes.

Volunteers

GMA asked her former classmates to volunteer for her political campaign and Ms Dinglasan found she had time to help out. When GMA ran for vice president, she again volunteered to accompany her on her nationwide campaign. After GMA won, the vice president was named DSWD secretary and asked her to play a more active role in government.

Ms Dinglasan was assigned to work on GMA's Ahon program for street children, again as a volunteer. ("I don't need a formal title. I'm a plodder. I get things done.") She interacted with some 5,000 parents of street children in the government's desire to get them off the streets.

When GMA became president, she appointed Ms Dinglasan as vice-chairman of the Videogram Regukatory Board. The job required her to attend twice-a-month meetings and got her exposed to the movie and television industry.

Early this year, the President informed Ms Dinglasan that MTRCB chairman Alejandro Roces wanted to leave his post. GMA wanted her to take his place. "I was taken aback because she could have called on anybody else. But my reply to her was 'If you say so. I cannot say no to you.' I was hoping she'd forget it. Finally, my appointment was announced, That was the first time I heard of it."

In the following Q and A, Ms Dinglasan reveals what the movie and TV industry can expect during her term:

You have always been a low-profile person. Are you ready to face the controversies that usually come with your new position?

I have prayed on it and asked the Lord if I can serve and give Him glory in this position. Everything worked out for me to answer yes. I firmly believe if the Lord sends you, He will supply your every need—the need for courage, for wisdom.

You are an active member of Couples for Christ. How will your religiosity...

I'd rather call myself prayerful.

How will that affect your decisions as MTRCB chairman?

It helps me decide. It enlightens me on how to follow the letter of the law. But in terms of being a devout Catholic, convent-bred, I don't bring that into this job. I maintain an open mind. I'm a modern person. I don't come from the Middle Ages. I am my own woman. I will listen to everybody but I will make my decision based on my convictions and the law.

Also, I firmly believe that the MTRCB is an essential part of the fourth component of this government's thrust—moral regeneration. We must try to elevate the level of morality in Philippine society.

What is your personal feeling about nudity and sex on the big screen?

Nudity per se is not bad. If it has a lot to do with the story and if the scenes are not prolonged, I don't see anything wrong with that.

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One of our biggest responsibilities is to protect the young from too much sex and violence. Whatever they are fed now is what they will bring to the future, and these are the future leaders of the country. There is a need, therefore, to instill moral values among the young. The adults can take care of themselves.

What is your message to local producers?

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What . . .

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Side comments

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"All in all, I prefer ABS-CBN because they deliver the news earlier than GMA (like their reports from Basilan), maybe because they're better-financed.

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A family of cooks

Parehong magaling magluto si lola at ang mama ko. My lola, Nanay Juliana, had 15 kids kaya talagang dapat creative ang cooking para magkasya sa budget. She taught all her children how to cook, even her sons. That's why Mama started cooking when she was just 12 years old! Kaya siguro ang galing-galing niya! She knows her recipes so well that no matter what, her dishes come out perfect every single time. At walang tikim-tikim iyan!

Cooking for my family

Di lang acting genes ni Mama ang namana ko. Pati ang cooking genes niya! After tasting a recipe once, I can already prepare my own version. I enjoy cooking, but I'm not able to do it as often as I'd like because of my busy schedule. Kaya pag nakita ako ng asawa kong nagluluto, aba, happy siya! For him, I prepare my specialties-pasta dishes, and of course, Pinoy classics na turo ni Mama.

Tessie with her Mama Lau, Laura Hermosa.

"Ang cooking secret namin? Masarap na sauce. Mula pa sa lola ko, hanggang sa anak ko."

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Ingredients:
1 kilo Beef Kenchi
5 pcs calamansi
1/4 cup soy sauce
1/2 tsp ground pepper
1 head garlic
3 cups Del Monte Tomato Sauce
4 pcs. onions
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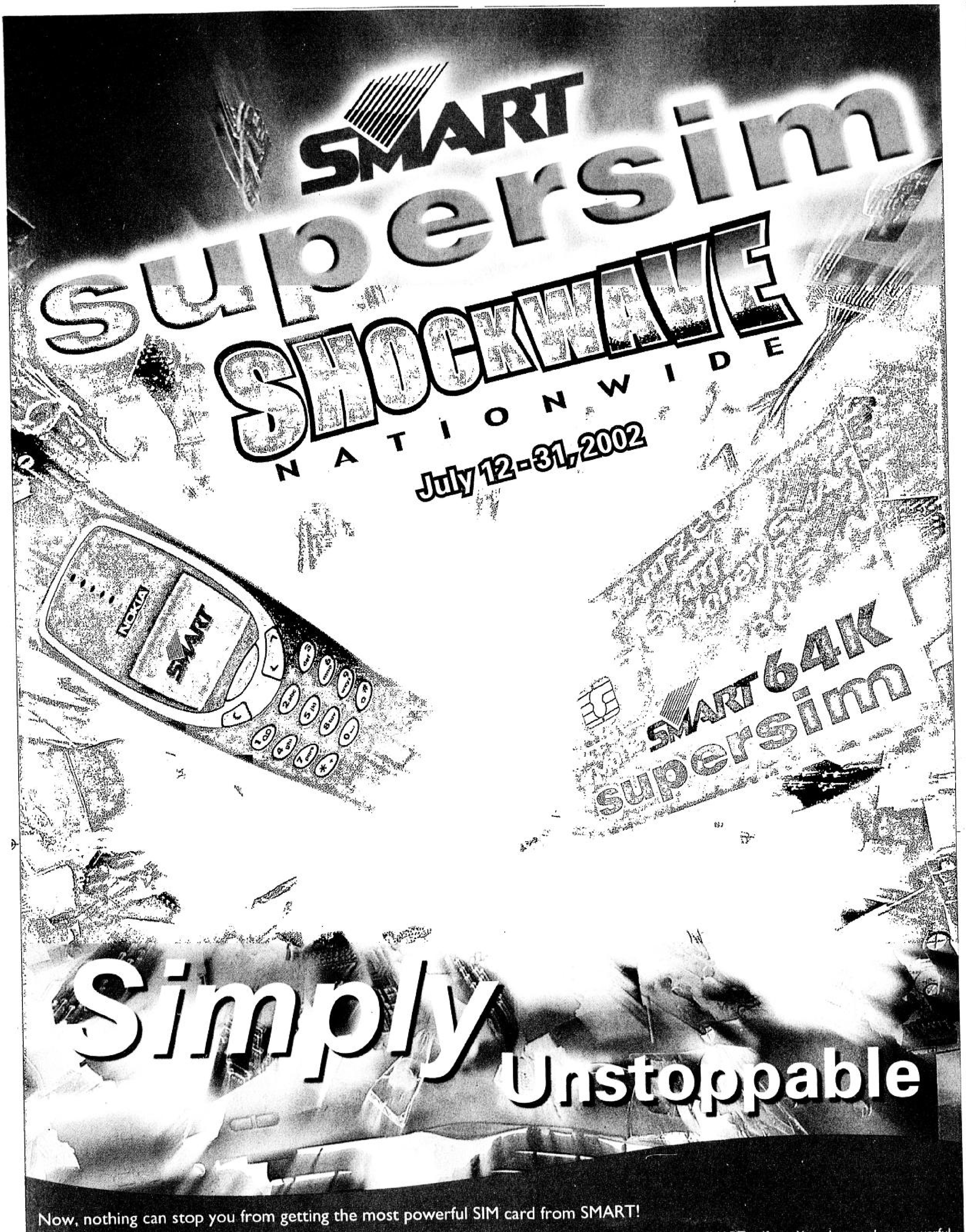

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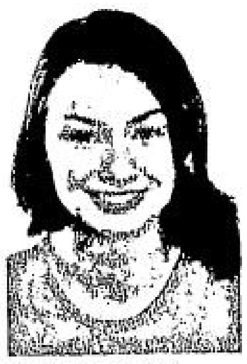
DONITA ROSE. Loves Japanese food.

NERI. Played the drums in high school.

Stars share intimate glimpses into their private worlds

By Maryann A. Bautista

JUDY Ann Santos splashes fresh milk on her face. Rosanna Roces hates to go hungry when she's shooting a film. Ariel Rivera wanted a pinball machine for his birthday as a child. Dominic Ochoa checks all the electric plugs at home before he leaves.

This is the stuff that makes interviews with show biz personalities interesting. They may not be earthshaking revelations, but they provide glimpses into their private worlds.

Shower

Bojo Molina: "I can't live without a shower! *Mahilig akong maligo.* I take a shower at least four times a day. I always bring my towel, soap and shampoo wherever I go. As much as possible, *gusto ko* fresh *palagi ang feeling ko.*"

Rosanna Roces: "*May topak ako.* Moody *akong tao. Sa set' ng mga* movies *ko, hindi ako puwedeng magutom. Iyon ang bisyo ko, pagkain. Kaya kong magpuyat, huwag mo lang akong gugutumin. Mahilig akong mag-*crash diet. *Ayokong mag-*exercise *kasi ayoko 'yung pinapawisan ako.*"

Agot Isidro: "I read self-help books like 'Chicken Soup for the Soul,' 'Road Less Travelled,' 'Awaken the Giant Within,' and 'Power of Positive Thinking.' *Basta mga* books on emotional intelligence.

"I've been to Europe but my dream is to go to Africa. It's a different world, you don't know what to expect when you get there.

"I'm a prude. *Nagpakuha ako ng*

STARS/ p. D2

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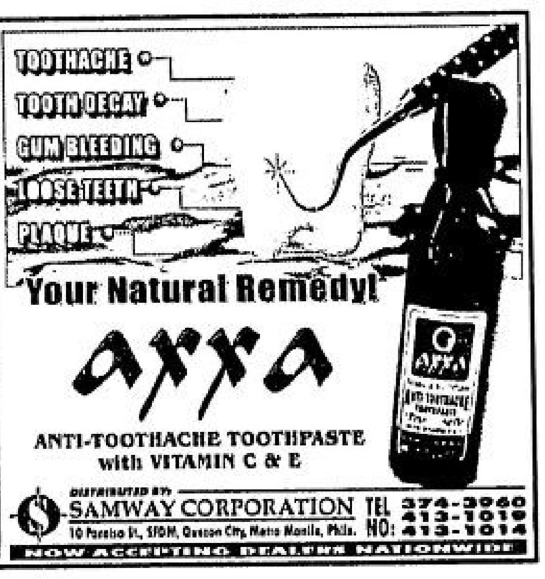
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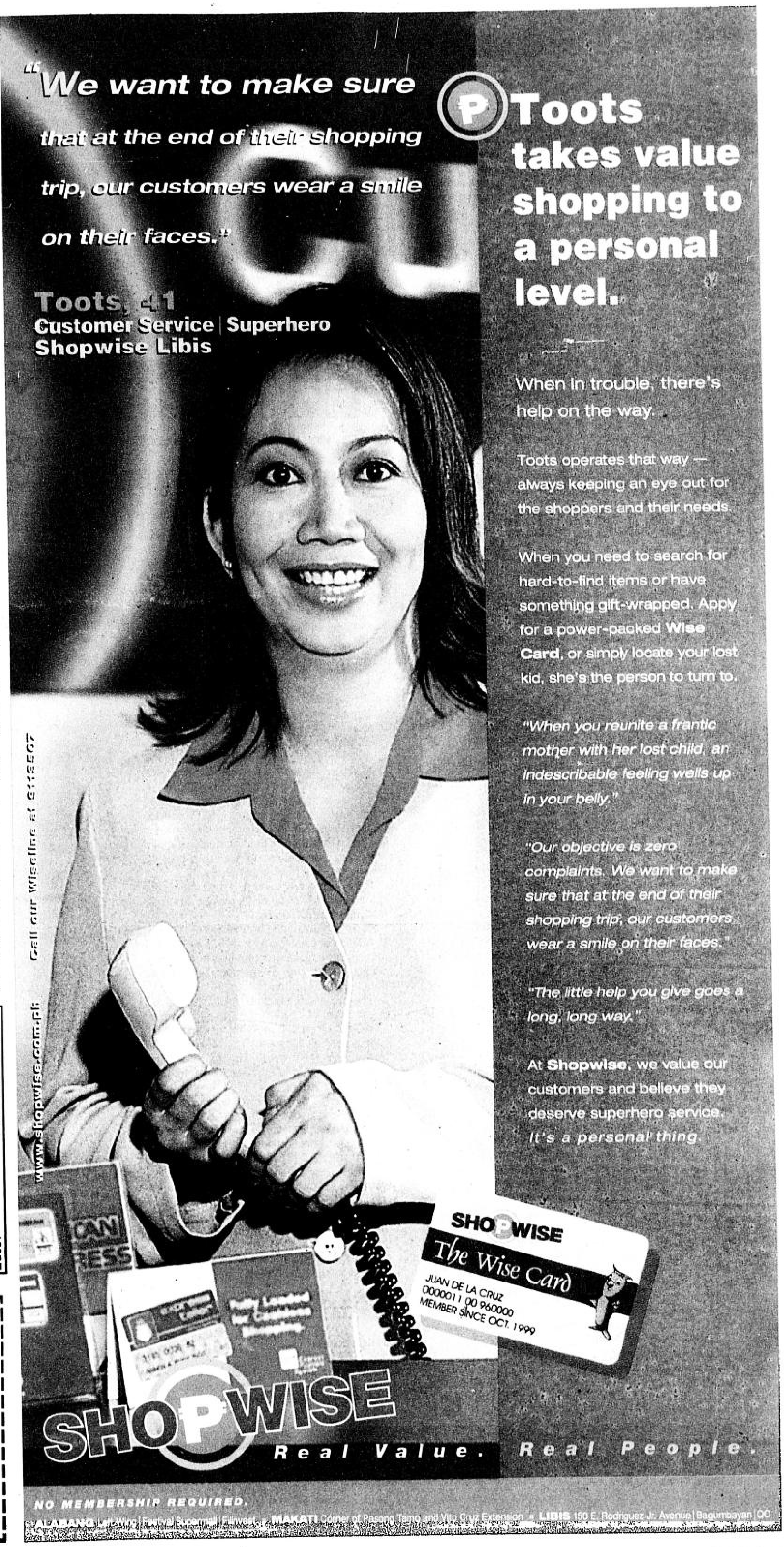
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2500, Series of 2002

Project Greenlight gives big breaks to new filmmaking talents

By Nestor U. Torre

NEW filmmakers the world over are all agog over Matt Damon and Ben Affleck's Project Greenlight. The million-dollar search for outstanding screenplays was won by a "complete unknown," Pete Jones. What, they wonder, did he have that they didn't?

Series

Since the Cinemax Channel has started airing a series that provides an inside look at the contest's selection process, we're running this backgrounder on winner Jones, to help young writers here get a clearer angle on what it took for him to beat the daunting competition.

Jones first tried to break into Hollywood by writing the usual gross-out comedy and car chase action-adventure. But his scripts failed to make the grade, so he decided to write a screenplay about something he knew: "the dynamic between Irish Catholics and Jewish culture."

His finished script, "Stolen Summer," was submitted to the Project Greenlight contest, where it competed against thousands of other entries.

Equipment

After the script survived the narrowing-down process, Jones and the other 249 semi–finalist "survivors" each had to make a three-minute "video-graphy" on themselves. He then made the top 30, and finally the top 10.

The 10 finalists then had to shoot three-minute scenes from their respective scripts with equipment provided by Project Greenlight, to prove that they could also direct their script, should they win the tilt.

Well, Jones won the competition and was awarded the $1 million bankrolled by Miramax. When he started shooting "Stolen Summer," however, he had a difficult time, since he was a first-timer. Some people predicted that his film would be a disaster.

But Jones proved them wrong. Despite his awkward start, when "Stolen Summer" was finally screened at the Sundance filmfest, it turned out to be, in critic Francisco Menendez's words, "an exceptional film—well-written, terrifically performed and professionally executed.

Meaning

"The film, about an eight-year-old boy on a quest for meaning in an imperfect world, addresses themes of religion, family and loss effectively and emotionally. The end result is a tenderly crafted story."

Asked to compare the script he wrote with the finished film, Jones was gratified to note that much of his original script had been followed. He *was* occasionally asked to make changes, but most of the time, he held his ground.

When he did compromise, it sometimes worked for the better. He recalls one such instance: "The casting director said I had to beef up the part of the boy's mother to attract a name actress. I thought that was weird, but that's the business.

"So, I wrote a couple of scenes to bulk up the part. And the funny thing is, they ended up being two of my favorite scenes, because the mother's character was the soul of that family!

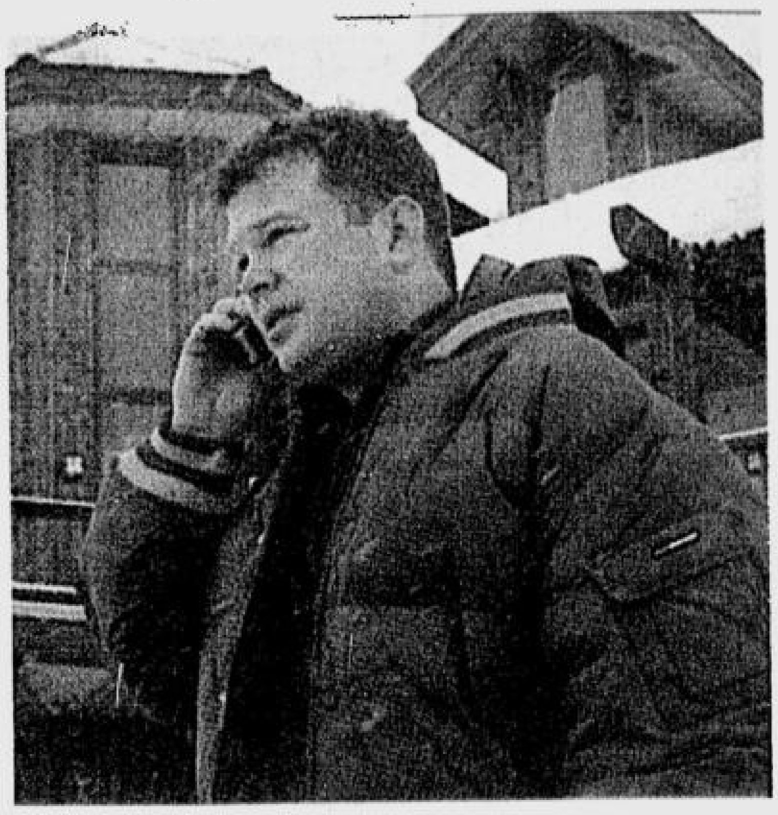
Conscience

"The scene between the boy and his mother, when she talks to him about conscience, and then the scene where he first goes out and she's on the phone—they were outstanding, and yet they weren't part of my original script!"

What did Jones learn from making his first film? "That you've first got to figure out what your movie is really about, because it affects the rest of your work to a major degree."

Pete Jones may have made some mistakes along the way, but the important thing is that his Project Greenlight victory has given him his start in filmmaking—in a big way. Take a bow, Miramax, and Matt Damon and Ben Affleck.

Will there be another Project Greenlight competition this year? Definitely! Pete Jones' success has become the cinematic talent search's best endorsement.



JONES. When he compromised, it sometimes worked for the better.

Young viewers react to 'Morning Girls'

By Rica Arevalo

WHEN the new television show, ABS CBN's "Morning Girls," premiered on nationwide TV, audience reacted in different ways. Some were excited, frustrated, satisfied and some expectations were not met. Here are some young viewers' observations:

Team-up

Rona Dagohoy, 19, Sta. Cruz, Manila: "I like the team-up of the three hosts. They have a good fashion statement and I am sure that a lot of us will follow their styles."

Eliza Laudit, 22, Taguig: "Kris can handle the show herself, as proven by her 'Today with Kris' show. Ms Padilla seems to let her guests talk too much, *nasasapawan siya*. And she rarely asks questions."

Madel Rosal, 19, Quezon City: "'Morning Girls' is a new show but I am looking for more substance in the guests and topics. Pops and Zsa-Zsa are excelling more on 'ASAP' than on this show."

Joy Rubi-Cruz, 20, Muntinlupa: "The hosts are very comfortable with each other. They are bubbly and tend to laugh all the time. Sometimes, they don't give their guests a chance to answer their questions. They themselves become 'guests' because of their unresolved personal conflicts."

Star-studded

Khristine Basa, 20, Novaliches: "The show is star-studded, but the hosts' popularity is not making the show look good. I suggest they add more segments and make the topics interesting. Also, encourage the audience to participate."

Grace Perez, 19, Cavite: "Kris Aquino is an effective host but she manages to steal the show from her co-hosts."

Theresa Austria, 20, Pandacan, Manila: "*Maganda ang* flow *ng* show. Lively *at may pagkaluka-loka ang mga* hosts. *Sa sobrang ingay, minsan nasasapawan nila ang isat-isa.*"

Freida Garaniel, 19, Muntinlupa: "I admire the hosts for being spontaneous and articulate."

Mark Perry Badilla, 18, Pasig: "Kris Aquino is an established talk-show host. Having two other co-hosts with her is an 'exaggeration.' It's like Oprah Winfrey with Jenny Jones *and* Jules Asner in one show. It is better to give each of them their own program than having them all in one show."

Jenny Rose dela Cruz, 19, Tondo, Manila: "What I like most in "Morning Girls" is their closing portion. The hosts share words of wisdom, and they flash on the screen a quotation that fits the topic of the day."

Friends as hosts

Loreian Marquez, 19, Caloocan City: "The concept of the program is good: real-life friends as hosts of the show. The flow of conversation is natural and the set is very 'homey.'"

April Gapiz, 20, Pasay City: "The three girls in the show are effective. Kris is the loud type, Zsa-Zsa is somewhat sarcastic, and Pops is the polite one. 'Morning Girls' is a talk show that we girls can love."

Gilbert Cruz, 20, Navotas: "I think that they should also consider men part of the audience, in order for the show to be relevant to all walks of life. The topics they tackle are obviously pro-women."

Dexter Zeus Tapales, 20, Makati City: "'Morning Girls,' the new talk show produced by ABS-CBN, is not really 'new.' They just reformatted it by getting three popular and glamorous hosts."

No dead air

Rocelyn Vistan, 18, Tondo, Manila: "It is much better than 'Sis,' *kasi hindi nagkakaroon ng* dead air. *Si* Kris *sanay mag* host, *si* Pops *madaldal, at si* Zsa-Zsa *naman masaya yung boses, pero pag-*focus *ng* camera *sa mukha niya, para siyang iiyak.*

Fatima Roxas, 19, Las Piñas City: "The hosts are very lively in every discussion, but sometimes they get too emotional. They should control their emotions and try to stop shedding tears on nationwide TV."

Jayson Paor, 19, Sta. Mesa, Manila: "Every episode is worth waiting for. I am not their number one fan but I appreciate their efforts. There is teamwork from the three hosts to make their show entertaining, but I think there is a need to have a live audience to make it more lively.

Cinemanila International Film Festival launches Asia-Europe film development plan Aug. 12-14

By Bibsy M. Carballo

PERHAPS the most interesting aspect of the Makati-Cinemanila International Film Festival 2002, Aug. 1-15, is the launching of the Asia-Europe Film development plan (ASEF).

Discussions

The three-day event to be held Aug. 12-14 will expose Filipino participants to foreign writers, directors, producers and distributors and festival directors from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Singapore, Korea, Japan, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, Finland, the United Kingdom and Italy in round table discussions.

The plan, based on the successful promotion plan of the Pusan International Film Festival of South Korea, Cinema Art in Rotterdam, and the International Film Financing Conference of San Francisco, involves having a select handful of Filipino filmmakers, mainstream or independent, to pitch their projects for co-production and film financing.

"This is the first time we shall have anything like this," exclaims Tikoy Aguiluz, Cinemanila festival director.

European Commission

ASEF was established in Feb. 1997. Based in Singapore, it reports to a board of 26 governors comprising 25 member-nations and the European Commission.

These countries include Austria, Belgium, Brunei, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Activities of the ASEF range from conventions, seminars, youth camps, art competitions. performances and exhibitions. Since its inception, it has completed over 120 projects involving more than 5,000 Asians and Europeans.

In its calendar of events for the year includes the Fourth Asian Film Festival at Deauville, France in March, which consisted of ASEF Cultural grantees; a workshop on TV documentary in April; a workshop on Educational and cultural TV programs last January; as well as a dance forum in Singapore; a touring painting exhibition in Singapore, Malaysia, and Brunei, and a puppet festival in Thailand.

During the three-day session, the chosen filmmakers will rub elbows with veteran film talents from participating countries.

Unique opportunity

According to Aguiluz, this will be a unique opportunity for Europeans and Asian to get together and work on projects that would allow the development of non-traditional talent, filmmakers whose visions may be noncommercial and non-traditional. The executive director of ASEF, Delfin Colomé, has already confirmed his attendance.

Aguiluz stresses that the purpose of the conference is to provide a venue for Europeans and Asians to come together to balance the dominance of Hollywood.

Makati Cinemanila 2002, now on its fourth year, will present for screening over a hundred films that include the Silver prize awardee at the 2002 German Film Awards, "Heaven," directed by Tom Tykwer of Germany as opening film.

The closing film, "In the Mood for Love" by Hong Kong's Wong Kar-Wai, won as Best Foreign Language Film and for Best Cinematography from the 2002 New York Film Critics Circle, and the Best Actor award for Tony Leung Chiu-Wai, and Special Prize for Cinematography and Editing at the 2000 Cannes Film Festival.

Other important films

Other important films are Ken Loach's "The Navigators" from the United Kingdom, which won the Children and Cinema prize, and the Rota Soundtrack Prize in the 2001 Venice International Film Festival; 2001 Cannes' Un Certain Regard winner Zacharias Kunuk's "Atanarjuat, The Fast Runner" from Canada; 2000 Cannes winner of the Ecumenical Prize, Amos Kollek's "Fast Food, Fast Women"; and Harry Sinclair's "Topless Women Talk About their Lives" from New Zealand, which swept the 1998 New Zealand Film Awards.

Cinemanila 2002 is presented by the City of Makati. Sponsors are the Ayala Cinemas, Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Philippines Daily Inquirer, DHL, Yehey, and RPN-9. Screenings will be at Greenbelt 1 Cinemas, with some special screenings at the CCP and UP Film Center.

DIREK Tikoy (third from left, standing) with Robert Malengreau (left) and other friends.

'Hangad A Capella!' celebrates Jesuit music

By Leia Torre

"HANGAD A Capella!" is an album composed of 15 tracks, all of which are Jesuit compositions. They are mostly songs that are regularly sung and heard during mass. Produced by Hangad and the Jesuit Music Ministry of the Jesuit Communications Foundation Inc., the album is "a celebration of pure voice."

The songs included in the album are "Papuri," "Panalangin Sa Pagiging Bukas-Palad," "Pilgrim's Theme (Greater Scheme of Things)," "Kahangahanga," "Pastoral," "Inay," "Anima Christi," "Kapuripuri Ka," "Paghahandog," "Panginoon, Aking Tanglaw," "You Are Near," "Sabay Sa Ihip Ng Hangin," "Sa Diyos Lamang Mapapanatag," "Ang Puso Ko'y Nagpupuri (Magnificat)," and "Gabii (Gabi)."

Invitation

An introduction relates the album's purpose, the definition of a capella music, how the new renditions of the songs were arrived at, and an invitation for the listener to celebrate and pray along with the compilation's creators.

The last track, "Gabii," is the only one that does not have any lyrics to accompany the music. It is meant as a prayer in pure sound, the sound being created by many voices blending with one another. The song has a very soothing quality, and may be used during meditation, to put listeners in a prayerful mood.

All of the songs in this album are new renditions that are the result of Hangad's constant exploration and experimentation with a capella music. With these novel versions in a

HANGAD/ p. D4

Stars share intimate glimpses into their private worlds

From p. D1

picture *na naka-*two-piece bathing suit *pero malayo*. I'm not very comfortable showing my body. If I had the body of Ina Raymundo, I would flaunt it!"

Friend

Dominic Ochoa: "I check on all the electric plugs before I leave the house. May friend *kasi ako na nasunugan, kaya* I'm conscious of it. My favorite dishes are gambas, pork barbecue and salpicao, and I always drink juice. I hardly drink water, *gusto ko parating may kulay 'yung iniinom ko. Hindi ako mahilig pumunta sa* fridge *pero madalas akong magbulatlat ng* junk food *sa* cabinet.

"*Malinis akong tao. Gusto ko palagi ding malinis 'yung paligid ko. Sa babae, parati 'kong tinitingnan 'yung kuko sa kamay at paa*. It really turns me off when women aren't clean and neat."

Ina Raymundo: "I apply body lotion everyday. *Mahilig ako sa mga* body oil *at* gels. I always play with my hair and my scalp. I want to scratch my scalp even if it's not itchy.

"*Takot ako sa* tubig. And I hate very tight places. *May takot ako na sumakay sa* elevator. *Ayokong sumakay sa mga kotseng* two-door, *parang hindi ako makahinga*. I hate it *pag nasa loob ka ng kotse, tapos puro* trucks *ang nasa paligid mo.*

"*Ayoko ring manood ng* concerts *kasi feeling ko* someone will scratch, stab, cut or strangle me. Vice *ko ang magpuyat.* I can't sleep early so I just spend time on my computer—e-mailing or chatting."

Make-up

Judy Ann Santos: "I remove my make-up with baby oil. *Tapos pag* haggard *na ako,* I just put fresh milk on my face. It helps the skin relax. *Gumaganda ang* aura *ng mukha.*"

Louie Heredia: "I never run out of diet Coke and cups of noodle soup. For me, the microwave oven is the best invention in the world, *kasi mabilis*. I have a toaster but I've never used it, microwave *palagi ang ginagamit ko.*

"My favorite food is Filipino. I went to Japan and I was excited. But after a week, I wanted to come home. *Malansa at iisa lang ang lasa ng mga pagkain nila. Lasang* ginger *at* tofu! After a while, *iba na rin ang amoy mo.*

"*Ang itlog na maalat doon,* P1,000 *ang* equivalent. Filipino food is still the best, you look for it. I love *adobo, kare-kare* and *ginisang monggo.*"

Angelu de Leon: "It was hard to 'control' my dimples when I was starting as an actress. They were a liability, but they became an asset. People say that they like my dimples and the shape of my face—*bilog.*"

Mike Kasem: "My favorite actor in comedy is Jim Carrey. For drama, I like Harrison Ford and Nicolas Cage. My favorite movies are "Ace Ventura" and "Star Wars."

"I can adapt easily. But I don't hang out with the western group that much, 'coz they're into jock sports and fraternities. I love hip-hop and alternative music."

Sharmaine Suarez: "When I was a student in San Agustin, I would dance but I never sang. I got stage fright whenever I had to sing. I would join stage plays and I was into sports. I was on the varsity volleyball team, also into swimming, running and tennis. I love to observe people and mimic them. Even at home, *kapag may* recall *sa akin 'yung napanood ko sa* TV, *gagayahin ko iyon sa harap ng pamilya ko.*"

Joey Reyes: "I love being a writer-director. If I don't do anything, I get sick. I can't stay home and just watch TV. To kill time on the set, I eat. I don't eat breakfast but I drink gallons and gallons of coffee. My problem is, *kain ako nang kain*, in-between meals! I'm a junk food freak!"

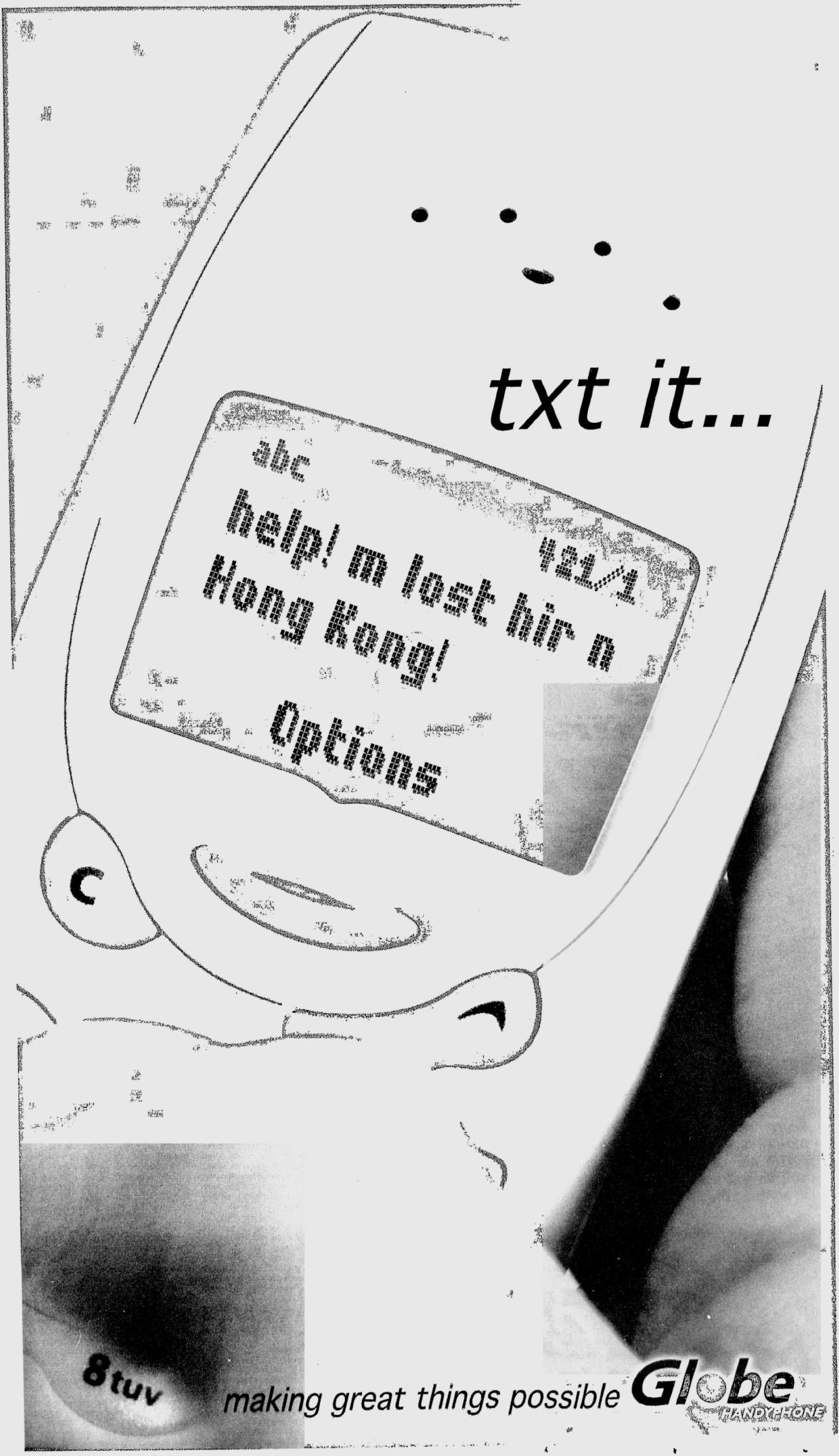
Pinball machine

Ariel Rivera: "My dad had two jobs and one part-time job when I was a kid in Canada. My mom couldn't work *kasi maliliit pa kami*. I remember that I wanted this small pinball machine for my seventh birthday, but I knew we couldn't afford it. I would just stare at it at the mall. During my seventh birthday, I played hooky from school, then I came home and my dad gave me a present. He took the day off for my birthday, which he never did before. When I opened the package, it was the pinball machine! That was the first time I cried because I was so happy. Usually *kasi*, as I kid, I cried *pag pinapalo ako.*"

Victor Neri: "I've always wanted to be paired with Rene Russo (of 'Tin Cup,' 'Ransom' and 'Lethal Weapon 4') but that's impossible! As a kid, my dream was to become a session drummer. In high school, I played the drums, the guitar, the bass and piano."

Donita Rose: "I love Japanese food but I stay away from shrimp tempura. *Alam ko kasi na* oil-based *'yon,* and *kapag nasanay ka na sa walang taba, kapag kumain ka ulit, nakakasuka.* I can cook pasta, seafood and American food. I make good lasagna and my friends love my fried rice. My specialty is Mexican fried rice. It's like tacos *pero* with rice.

"I make sure that I remove all traces of make-up with cold cream. I apply moisturizer and astringent on my face before sleeping. Before I go under the harsh lights on the set, I use a sunblock before putting on make-up."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High drama in 'High Crimes'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE INSPIRING story of David vs. Goliath makes "High Crimes" a gripping viewing experience. Updated to pit two individuals against the might of the US military, the conflict acquires a modern context that makes it acutely relevant to today's viewers.

In the film, a young officer is accused of having killed a number of people while on covert assignment abroad. His wife, played by Ashley Judd, is determined to defend him at his court martial, but doesn't know how to deal with the military.

She gets a down-and-out former insider (Morgan Freeman) to help her, and her husband's chances of being found innocent improve. However, Judd senses that, despite the strong evidence they are able to dig up, her husband's guilt has been predetermined by the judge.

Why are so many military officials bent on blaming the massacre on her husband? As Judd digs deeper, she discovers the even bigger issue that the killings tried to cover up.

This is already a big twist in the story, but not its final shocker. That comes when Judd learns that even the people closest to her can't be trusted.

Judd and Freeman keep the proceedings exciting with their involvement in their roles. When the charcaters they play finally triumph over the military officials in the end, their relief is shared by the audience, which has been empathizing with them all the way.

Celebrities take time out to plant trees

Movie stars, basketball players, beauty queens, government officials and other celebrities will contribute their share in building the future by planting a tree through Couples for Christ's Celebrity Plant to be held on July 28, Sunday, 1 p.m. at Prayer Mountain, Antipolo City. Celebrity Plant is one of the components of the A Time to Plant initiative.

After A Time to Build last June, which enabled Gawad Kalinga to build 2,220 houses for the poorest of the poor nationwide, Couples for Christ, through its socio-political renewal ministry, St. Thomas More & Associates (STMA), now launches A Time to Plant.

This will be in more than 100 sites all over the country, including the 96 Gawad Kalinga communities nationwide. This program aims to plant 50,000 trees with the invaluable help of strategic partners and volunteers.

But tree-planting will not be the only activity of A Time to Plant. It will also have food self-sufficiency, landscaping and waste management projects.

For food self-sufficiency, every Gawad Kalinga community is required to have vegetables gardens. Other food projects are quail-raising, tilapia farming, poultry and piggery. Meanwhile, landscaping is part of the dignity-restoration component of every GK area.

Concrete waste management projects will be launched in all the Gawad Kalinga communities. These include the three Rs system of reuse, reduce, recycle; the composting method; and the waste segregation process.

There will also be activities for kids—trash can painting, creative workshops on waste management and fun games.

93 Emmy nominations for HBO

HBO has received 93 primetime Emmy nominations, leading all networks for the second year in a row, for the upcoming 54th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards.

The acclaimed series "Six Feet Under" topped HBO's list of nominees with 23 nominations, the most nominations of any show on TV this season, and the most in a single season for any HBO show ever.

"Band of Brothers" received 19 nominations, and "Sex and the City" received 10 nominations, while "The Gathering Storm" received nine nominations and "Path to War" received eight nominations.

Along with "The Gathering Storm" and "Path to War," "The Laramie Project" (four nominations) and "Dinner with Friends" (two nominations) were also nominated in the made-for-TV movie category.

The current and upcoming Emmy-nominated productions that viewers in Asia can catch on HBO and Cinemax:

"Six Feet Under" will premiere exclusively on HBO this October. The new season of "Sex and the City" is still on HBO, every Tuesday at 10 p.m., while "Band of Brothers" is returning for a final run in November. Catch "Madonna's Drowned World Tour" on Aug. 15 at 9 p.m.

"In Memoriam: New York City, 9/11/01" received five nominations and was telecast on CNN in Asia in June. The primetime Emmy awards will be announced on Sept. 22.

Eminem's album

Eminem's new album, "The Eminem Show," enters Billboard Top 200 albums at No. 1 with 284,534 copies sold in the US after being in stores for only 36 hours.

The debut is an unprecedented event in the music industry. It is the first time an album has entered at the top slot without the benefit of a full first week of on-sale days.

Mike Shalett, chairman and CEO of Soundscan reveals, "We've never had a record debut at No. 1 on the Soundscan chart that hasn't had the benefit of a full six days of sales behind it."

Soundscan accrues point of sales data from more than 17,000 record retailers in the US, accounting for more than 85 percent of over-the-counter music product sales in the US.

Eminem has already sold more than 35 million albums worldwide from his two previous outings. "The Eminem Show" is under the Aftermath/Interscope label of MCA Universal Inc. In Manila, Eminem created a stir as the artist pick of the month for June over Campus Radio 97.1 WLS.

Hallmark film

On July 28, on the Hallmark Channel at 9 p.m, "Laurie Lee's Cider with Rosie" revisits the halcyon era of the 1910s and 1920s as it follows the growth of its hero from childhood to adolescence and young manhood.

As the movie unfolds, it shows that life in its protagonist's quaint little village isn't all warm evenings and fumbling sexuality. Important roles are played by Juliet Stevenson, David Troughton and Con O'Neill.

Feedback

From veteran screenwriter Jess L. Banguis: "If Allan K would replace Edu Manzano as host of the TV game show 'The Weakest Link,' as recently reported, it could be more catastrophic than if Ai-Ai de las Alas were to take over the solemn responsibility of Jaime Cardinal Sin.

"Allan K is an accomplished professional singer and popular comedian whose trademark is his undying love to enclose himself inside women's dresses and act accordingly to make viewers laugh.

"But his qualifications and experience have no link whatever to the nature of 'TWL,' which is an entirely new ballgame for him. It is not ordinary emceeing, not only reading the questions and declaring whether or not the answers given are correct. It is not merely reciting the procedures and rules of the game over and over again, or reading the names of the participants in the next scheduled program.

"In other game shows, the regular host may be absent for periods of time without causing any production problem, because there are substitutes available to take over and duplicate the routine functions of the regular quizmaster.

"This is not the case with 'TWL,' where the hosting is a specialized role requiring high IQ, mastery of spoken English, coolness under stress, a quick wit for repartees, comical or satirical, to contestants' comments, and a sharp sense of humor masked by a deadpan expression."

Lotus Eaters

The Lotus Eaters will perform in an intimate neo-acoustic session at the Rockwell Tent on Aug. 3 at 9 p.m. The popular duo will also visit Tower Records in Makati today at 3 p.m., and O Music Store at Rockwell on Aug. 2 at 4 p.m. And they will be interviewed live on July 31— at 2 p.m. over Wave Radio, and Magic 89.9 WTM at 4:30 p.m.

Milo Marathon

On Sunday, July 28, the third leg of the 26th National Milo Marathon will start and end at the Quirino Grandstand. The full 42-kilometer marathon starts at 4 a.m., while the 10-kilometer, five-kilometer and three-kilometer runs start at 6 a.m.

LOTUS EATERS. Aug. 3 performance at the Rockwell Tent.

Lani Misalucha, Pops Fernandez in separate concerts

MONTAGE

LANI Misalucha will have a repeat of her June solo concert at the Hard Rock Cafe on July 30. Call 893-4661

Meanwhile, the Megacenter Mall in Cabanatuan City marks its fourth anniversary with a mini-concert on July 31at 4 p.m. featuring Pops Fernandez. An autograph-signing session will take place after the show. Pops is now on a provincial tour to promote her album, "The Way I Feel Inside." Call 044-463-1686.

'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' benefit

The UP Department of Pediatrics is sponsoring the staging of C. S. Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" on Aug. 3 at 8 p.m. at the Meralco Theater. The C.S. Lewis classic, which has been transformed into a musical by the Trumpets theater company, takes place in Narnia, a secret place known only to siblings Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy.

Part of the proceeds from the benefit show will go to the pediatric charity patients of the PGH. Call 0917-8995857 or 0917-8405669.

Jericho's fans day

Teleserye favorite Jericho Rosales recently held a Fans Day at the Sta Lucia East Grand Mall. The event also featured some of his friends in the business like Julia Clarete, Rafael Rosel, Luis Alandy and Nikki Valdez.

Retro concert

The retro concert featuring Hotdog and Boyfriends will have its final performance tonight at 9 at Onstage Makati. Hotdog is responsible for such OPM hits as "Bongga Ka Day," Annie Batungbakal," and Pers Lab," while the Boyfriends popularized "Bakit Labis Kitang Mahal," "Sumayaw, Sumunod," and "Dahil Mahal Kita." Call 551-7777.

'Cookie's Fortune' on Star Movies

Oscar nominee Robert Altman revisits the lighthearted terrotory of his 1970s comedies "Brewster McCloud and "A Wedding" in "Cookie's Fortune," premiering on Star Movies on July 28 at 9 p.m.

The movie stars Glenn Close, Julianne Moore, Liv Tyler and Chris O'Donnell.

It recreates the eccentricities of a small town where residents are peaceful and kind, with the exception of a pushy theater director, who is shocked to discover that his aunt has committed suicide.

'30 Seconds of Fame' contest

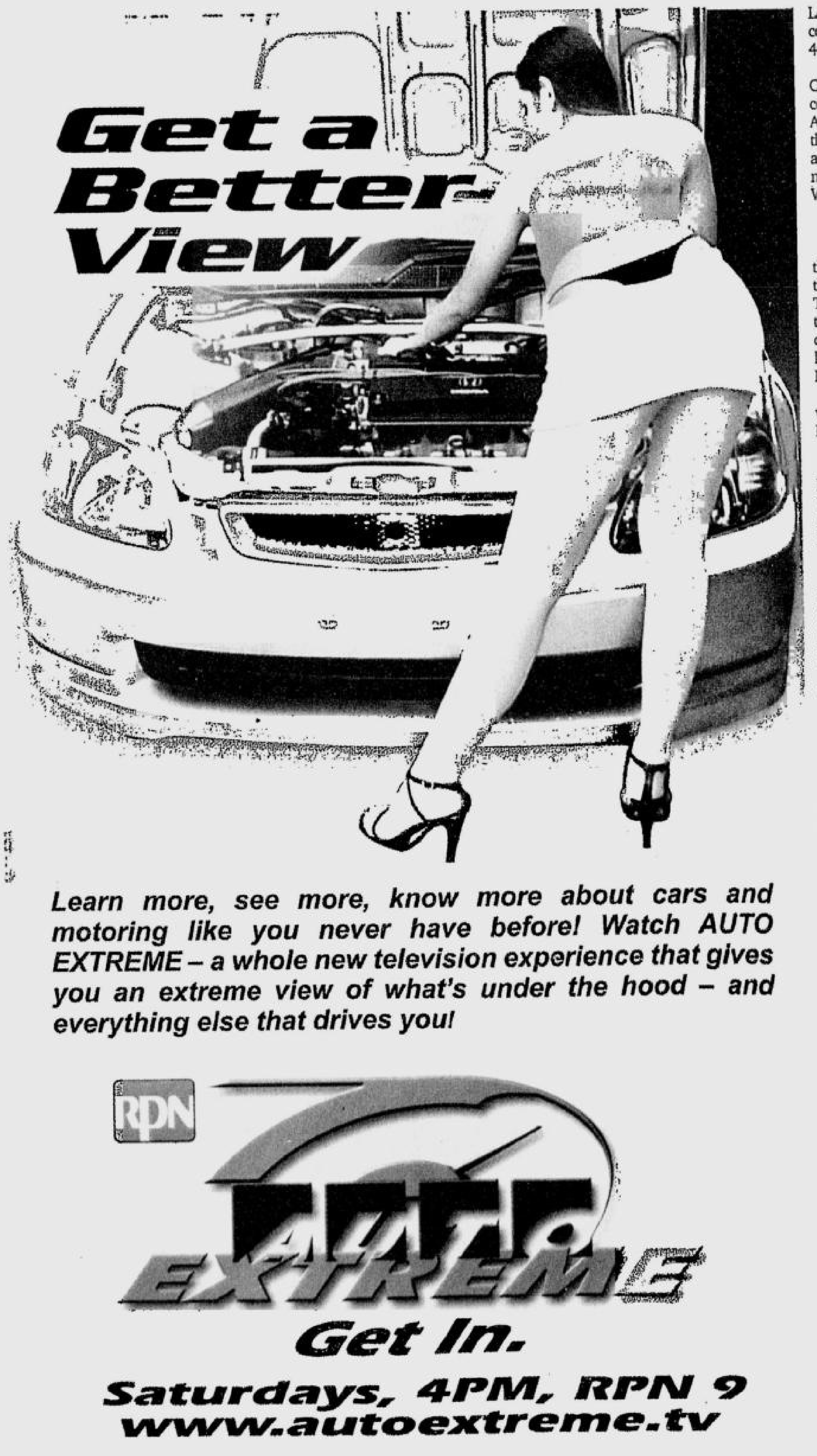
Cinemax has teamed up with Yahoo! Asia to offer viewers a shot at fame and the chance to win a digital video camera in the "30 Seconds of Fame--Online Video Contest."

Interested parties can log on to greenlight.asia.yahoo.com and submit a 30-second attention-grabbing video clip of themselves by Aug. 8, stating creatively why they should win the grand prize. They can also mail their entries ro Yahoo! Asia "30 Seconds of Fame–Online Video Contest" at 520 North Bridge Road, #05-01 Wisma Alsagoff, Singapore 188742.

This is in conjunction with the showing of the documentary "Project Greenlight," airing every Monday at 8:30 p.m. on Cinemax. "PGL" documents the making of a movie from the time the winner is chosen in an online scriptwriting contest, to the day the movie is finally screened.

For more details, log on to www.cinemaxasia.com or asia.yahoo.com or yahoo.com.sg. *(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)*

JERICHO Rosales interacts with his fans at Sta. Lucia mall.



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'Hangad A Capella!' . . .

From p. D2

capella, "Hangad hopes to re-create the experience of prayer, with songs that may have become too familiar, songs heard so many times that they have lost their meaning."

Worthy goal

The group's aim is to "rekindle these songs, so that we can pray them anew." This is certainly a worthy goal, as some of these songs, especially the more popular ones, are mostly being sung by rote nowadays. Listening to the fresh, unique, and heartfelt ways the songs are rendered in this album will certainly help jolt us out of our apathy.

The singers have managed to use their voices as vehicles of praise and prayer, and the result is beautiful music with meaning.

For example, the way "You Are Near" sounds here is so different from how it frequently sounds in church that, at first, one may not even realize that it is the same song. And this does not refer only to the singers' vocal technique and training.

Another major factor is that these singers imbue the lyrics with life, and this keeps the songs from seeming ordinary, repetitive, and boring.

Make-over

Another well-known song, "Panalangin Sa Pagiging Bukas-Palad," also gets a make-over in this album. The song's lyrics and melody were created to effect a prayerful mood. It was meant to be sung solemnly—not in a dragging manner. Unfortunately, the latter is what usually happens. Hangad's felt version shows how the song should be interpreted so that it will realize its full potential.

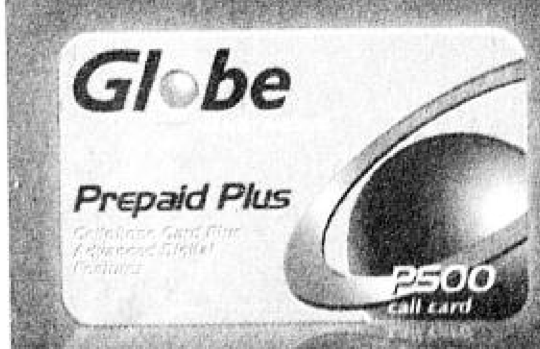
One song that is not often heard but could become a hit is the third track, "Pilgrim's Theme (Greater Scheme of Things)." Aside from having a very catchy, memorable melody, its lyrics tell about things that everybody can relate to. The main theme is about a pilgrim going on a journey, and his discouragement when he encounters obstacles, doubts, and questions with few answers.

This feeling of disappointment and wanting to give up has been experienced by many. The journey, of course, is that of life, which all of us travel. And while the song itself does not presume to offer any answers, it vivifies the hope of finding them someday.

"Papuri," the first track, could be used as an introit during mass. It has the refreshing quality of being a song of praise with a slow rhythm, which makes it unique. It could make a nice change from our usual upbeat entrance hymns.

Another praise song that could be used as an alternative for an introit is "Kahanga-hanga." Another favorite, "Anima Christi," also gets its due. While the basic voicing of the song is retained, more voices are added in order to give the song a richer texture and fuller sound. This is a prime example of what is stated in the introduction: "The arrangements weave individual voices and notes together, building them into something more beautiful than they would be on their own." "Anima Christi" is proof that the group has succeeded in this.

The entire choir performed some of these selections, and others had fewer voices blending together. This contributed to the uniqueness of each song, and prevented the cuts from sounding alike.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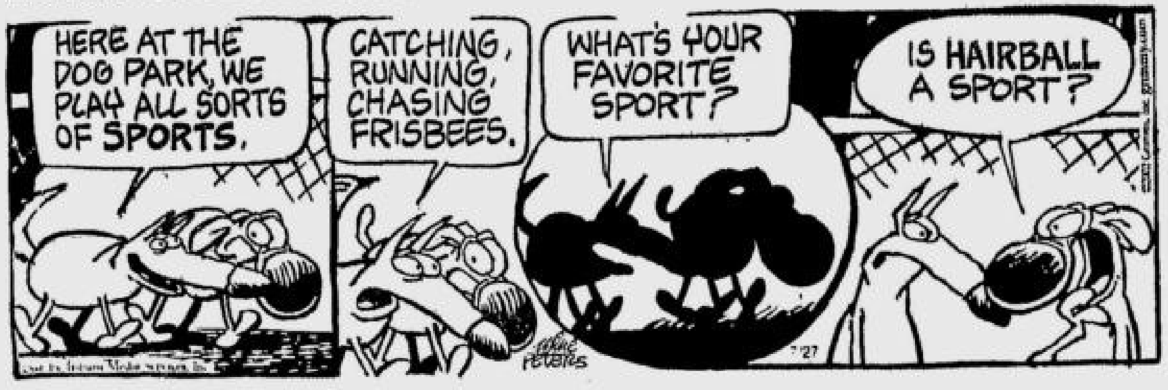
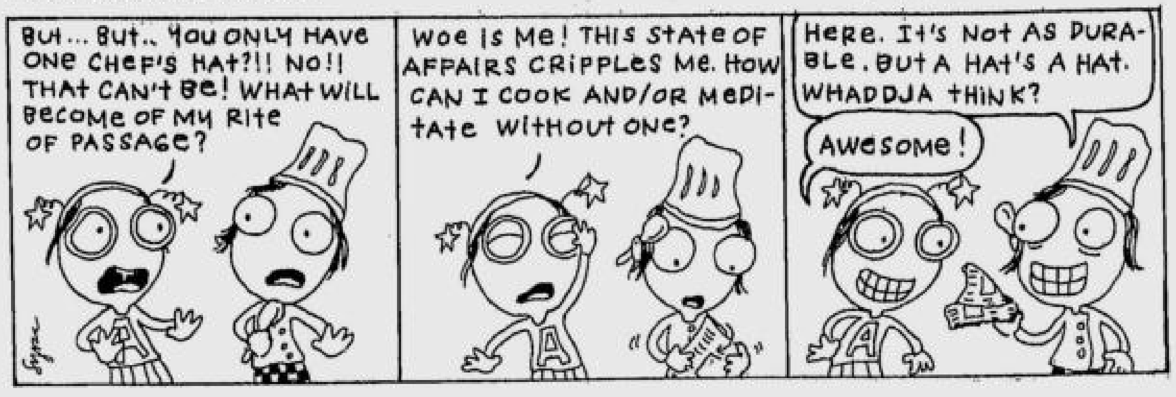
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HERE AT THE DOG PARK, WE PLAY ALL SORTS OF SPORTS.
CATCHING, RUNNING, CHASING FRISBEES.
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SPORT?
IS HAIRBALL A SPORT?
MIKE PETERS
7-27

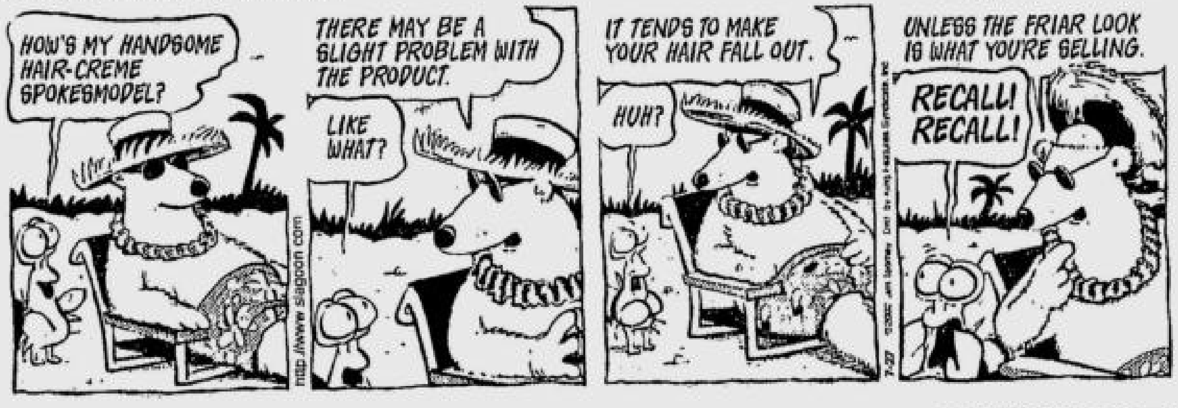
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


But... But.. You ONLY HAVE ONE CHEF'S HAT?!! NO!! THAT CAN'T BE! WHAT WILL BECOME OF MY RITE OF PASSAGE?
Woe is Me! THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS CRIPPLES ME. HOW CAN I COOK AND/OR MEDITATE WITHOUT ONE?
Here. It's Not AS DURABLE. BUT A HAT'S A HAT. WHADDJA THINK?
Awesome!

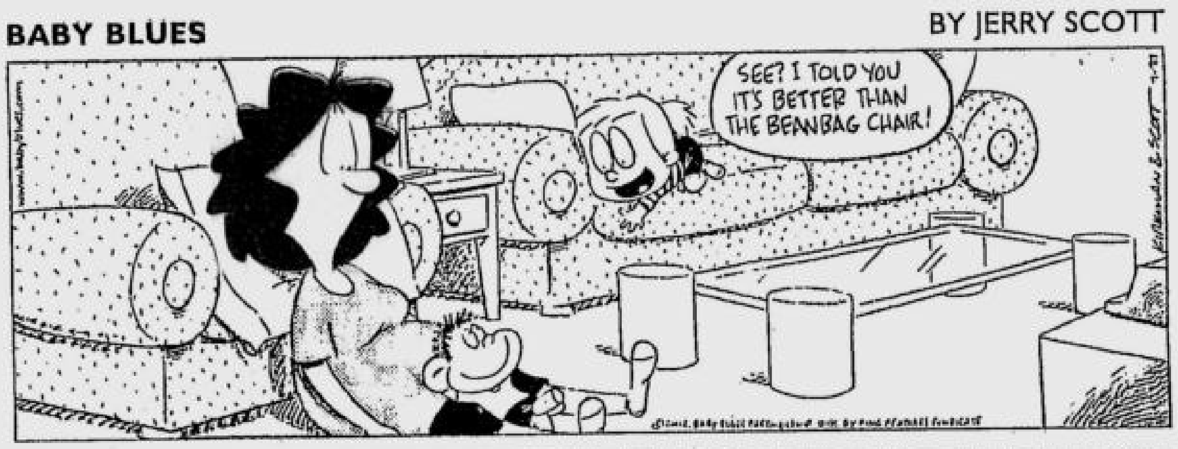
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HOW'S MY HANDSOME HAIR-CREME SPOKESMODEL?
THERE MAY BE A SLIGHT PROBLEM WITH THE PRODUCT.
LIKE WHAT?
IT TENDS TO MAKE YOUR HAIR FALL OUT.
HUH?
UNLESS THE FRIAR LOOK IS WHAT YOU'RE SELLING.
RECALL! RECALL!
http://www.slagoon.com
7-27

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SEE? I TOLD YOU IT'S BETTER THAN THE BEANBAG CHAIR!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bobbie Gentry, Jerry Van Dyke, Peggy Fleming, Maureen McGovern

Happy Birthday: This is a year of change and improvement. Get yourself into a new regime that is sure to bring you good health, a better attitude and a better opinion of yourself. Opportunities for romance are also evident. Your numbers are 3, 11, 16, 25, 29, 35

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your ability to be secretive about your busi-ness dealings today will make a difference when it comes to reaping the rewards. Remain open and receptive to the ideas that others offer, but don't let anyone else know your findings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your desire to help others will bring you great admiration and popularity today. Romantic opportunities will develop through the friendships you've made.will touch

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone may try to make you look bad. Involvement with an institution or official agency is likely. Look for sound advice from someone you can trust.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your concern today will be to change yourself, your direction, and your source for knowledge. Someone you meet today will influence you, and you will change his or her life as well.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will have problems with investments. Put your money in a safe place and refuse to take financial risks. You will be subject to theft or loss of belongings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will find happiness and harmony in your personal relationship if you are in one. If you aren't, should get out and meet people who may be suitable. You will do well in areas that deal with public relations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Energetically pursue your duties today, but be careful doing so. If you are using tools or equipment you will be prone to accidents or breakdowns.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your interest in foreign cultures, traditions and philosophies will be enhanced. You will find it easy to pick up added knowledge, and you can expand your interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your interest in studying and learning will be magnified. Negative thinking and worry may stand in your way if you don't try new things because you don't have enough confidence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Any interest in travel will lead you to exotic and pleasurable destinations. An increased ability to be articulate will help you deal with people and issues that arise. You will find it easy to learn new things today.

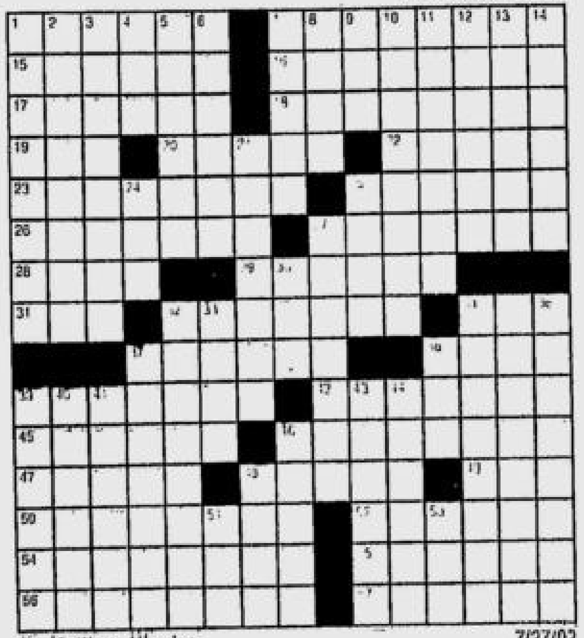
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be inspired to make money through unusual and intriguing ways. You will have a unique connection with one of your peers, and much can be learned if you observe his or her actions. Secret affairs may be hard to resist.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have a tendency to put on weight today if you are the least bit overindulgent. Your outlook will be optimistic and your confidence will inspire others. Get out and mingle. New partners and friendships can develop.

Birthday Baby: You will be sensitive, loving and always looking out for the underdog. You will always be where the action is and you thrive on anything that is new and unusual.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

7/27/02

ACROSS
1 Setting
7 Responsive
15 Worships
16 Persecution delusion
17 Prowling womanizer
18 Hoagy Carmichael classic
19 Mischievous child
20 Titled ladies
22 __ blanche
23 Nerve inflammation
25 Yachtsman Dennis
26 Brought into harmony
27 Hurries
28 Swarm
29 Novice
31 Sounds of hesitation
32 Suppresses
34 Small amount
37 Poorly ventilated
38 St. Petersburg river
39 Spinning-wheel attachment
42 Disperse
45 Disclose
46 Coast
47 Incantation
48 Appears
49 Bobbsey twin
50 Crouched
52 Mammal's coat
54 And so forth
55 Combines
56 Sowers
57 Knights' mounts

DOWN
1 Of the Roman language
2 Mileage recorder
3 Calculates
4 Segment of a circle
5 Opening bars
6 Landed manor
7 Church recesses
8 Floor pads
9 Significant period
10 Drug-induced drowsiness
11 Moderate in tempo
12 Robert Ludlum novel, "The __ Identity"
13 Pay attention
14 Diners
21 Diaphragm location
24 Buccaneer's drink
25 Edible first prize
27 Bishop of Rome's purview
30 Not playing one's best
32 Hollywood hopefuls
33 Bunch of hair
34 Explode
35 Calculated a mean
36 Naked state
37 Followed stealthily
38 Extreme degree
39 Menu choices
40 Attribute
41 Coventry Cathedral architect
43 BMOC word
44 Go-ahead
46 Common family car
48 Withered
51 "Losing My Religion" group
53 Abandon the truth

Friday's Puzzle Solved

C	H	A	P	■	R	O	M	P	■	B	A	L	S	A
H	U	R	L	■	E	M	I	R	■	A	W	A	I	T
E	S	C	O	N	D	I	D	O	■	G	E	S	S	O
S	H	A	V	E	■	T	A	T	U	M	■	V	I	M
T	U	N	E	U	P	■	S	E	S	A	M	E	■	■
S	P	A	R	R	O	W	■	M	A	N	A	G	E	S
■	■	■	S	O	L	A	R	■	■	■	D	A	V	E
A	M	A	■	N	O	G	A	L	E	S	■	S	A	T
M	I	M	I	■	■	■	M	O	R	E	S	■	■	■
P	L	A	C	E	B	O	■	T	A	C	T	F	U	L
■	■	R	E	C	O	U	P	■	S	T	R	A	T	A
O	B	I	■	H	A	T	E	R	■	O	A	S	T	S
H	E	L	L	O	■	L	A	S	C	R	U	C	E	S
M	E	L	E	E	■	A	L	V	A	■	S	I	R	E
S	P	O	O	R	■	W	E	P	T	■	S	A	S	S

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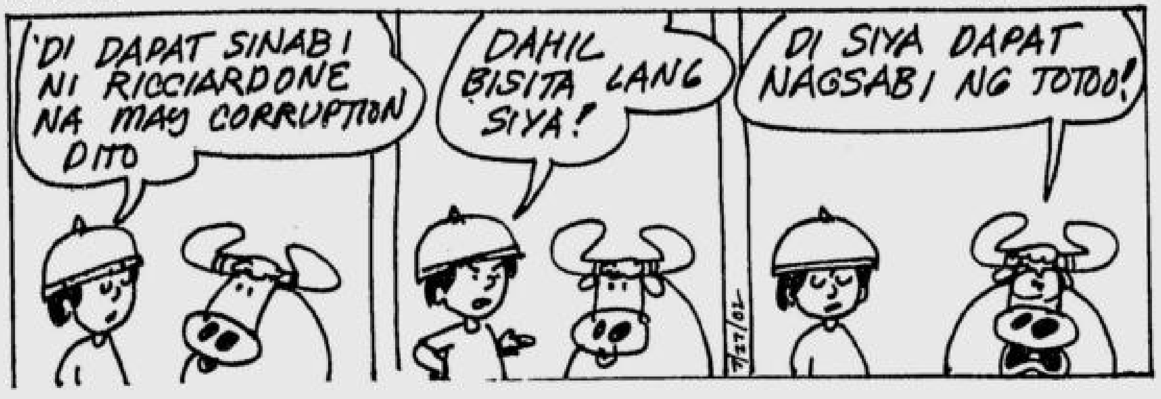
7/27/02

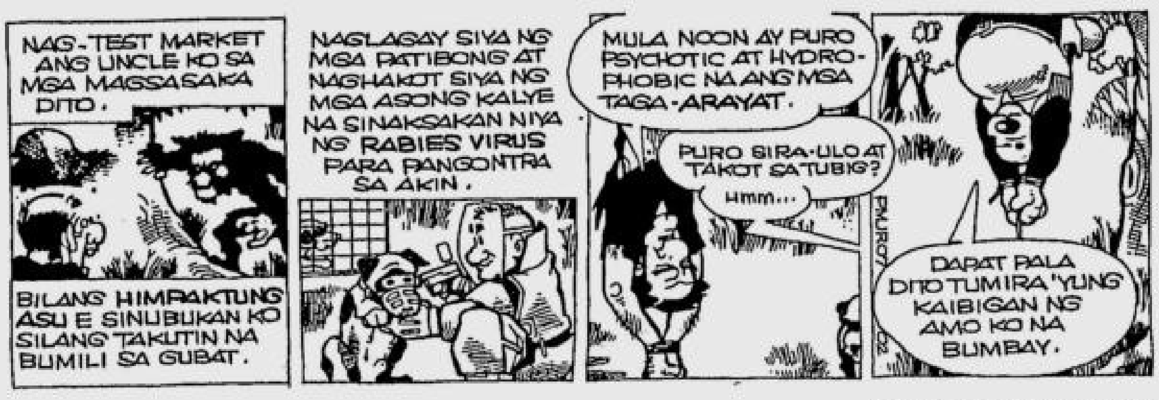
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'DI DAPAT SINABI NI RICCIARDONE NA MAY CORRUPTION DITO
DAHIL BISITA LANG SIYA!
DI SIYA DAPAT NAGSABI NG TOTOO!
7/27/02

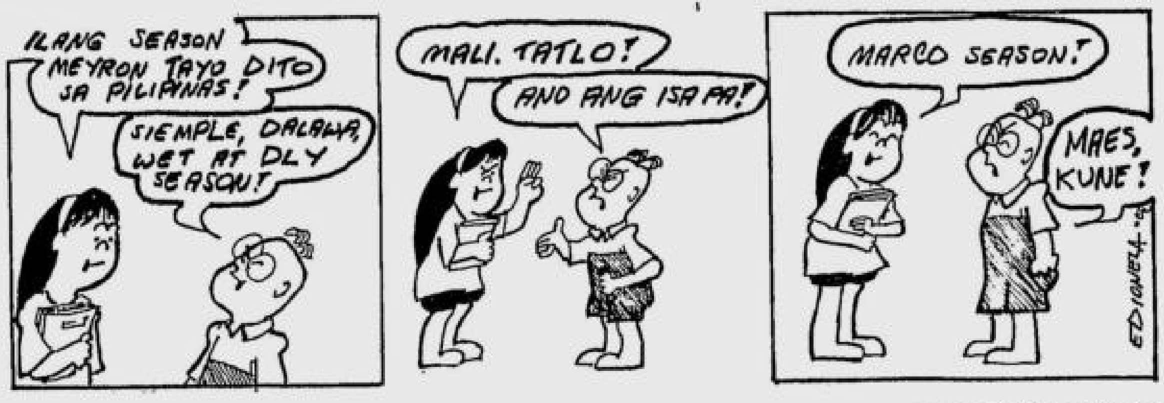
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAG-TEST MARKET ANG UNCLE KO SA MGA MAGSASAKA DITO.
BILANG HIMPAKTUNG ASU E SINUBUKAN KO SILANG TAKUTIN NA BUMILI SA GUBAT.
NAGLAGAY SIYA NG MGA PATIBONG AT NAGHAKOT SIYA NG MGA ASONG KALYE NA SINAKSAKAN NIYA NG RABIES VIRUS PARA PANGONTRA SA AKIN.
MULA NOON AY PURO PSYCHOTIC AT HYDROPHOBIC NA ANG MGA TAGA-ARAYAT.
PURO SIRA-ULO AT TAKOT SA TUBIG?
Hmm...
DAPAT PALA DITO TUMIRA 'YUNG KAIBIGAN NG AMO KO NA BUMBAY.
PMJUROT

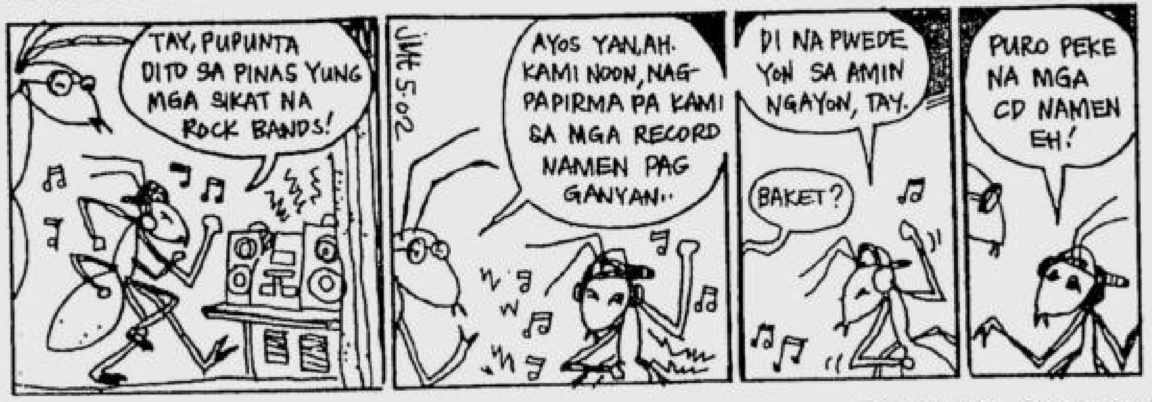
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ILANG SEASON MEYRON TAYO DITO SA PILIPINAS!
SIEMPLE, DALAWA, WET AT DLY SEASON!
MALI. TATLO!
ANO ANG ISA PA?
MARCO SEASON!
MAES, KUNE!
EDIONELA

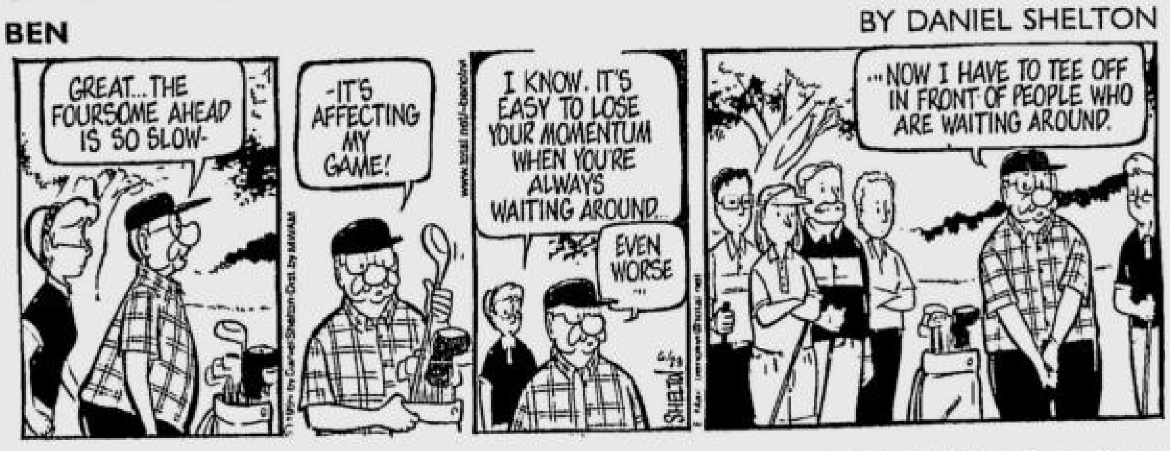
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TAY, PUPUNTA DITO SA PINAS YUNG MGA SIKAT NA ROCK BANDS!
JMT 5.02
AYOS YAN, AH. KAMI NOON, NAGPAPIRMA PA KAMI SA MGA RECORD NAMEN PAG GANYAN..
DI NA PWEDE YON SA AMIN NGAYON, TAY.
BAKET?
PURO PEKE NA MGA CD NAMEN EH!

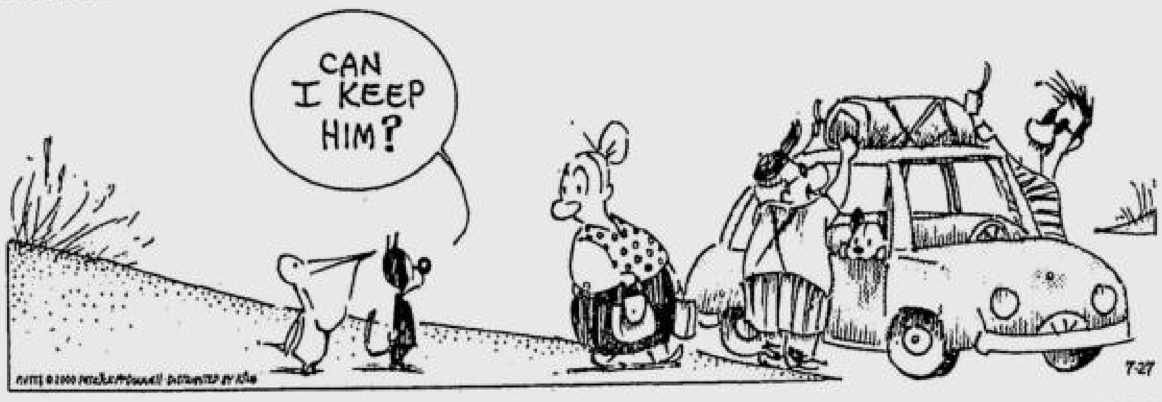
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GREAT...THE FOURSOME AHEAD IS SO SLOW-
-IT'S AFFECTING MY GAME!
I KNOW. IT'S EASY TO LOSE YOUR MOMENTUM WHEN YOU'RE ALWAYS WAITING AROUND...
EVEN WORSE...
...NOW I HAVE TO TEE OFF IN FRONT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE WAITING AROUND.
SHELTON

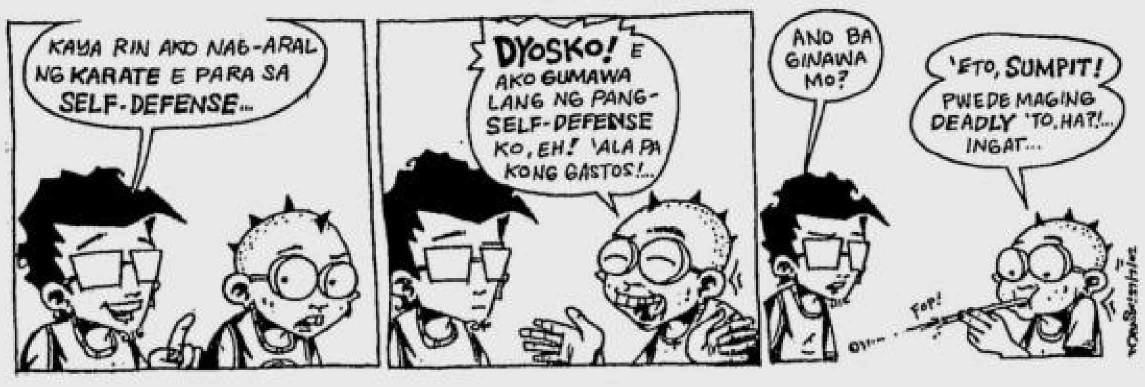
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


CAN I KEEP HIM?
7-27

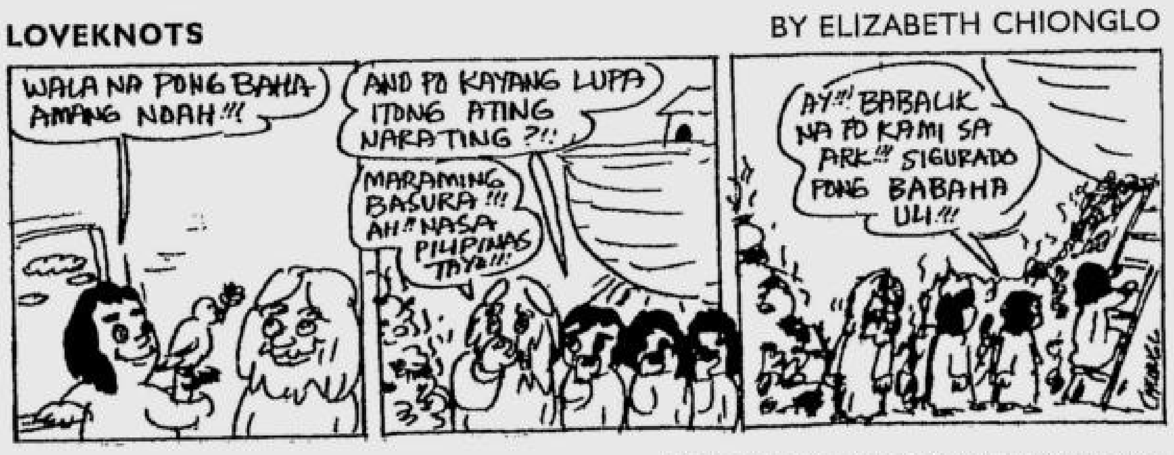
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KAYA RIN AKO NAG-ARAL NG KARATE E PARA SA SELF-DEFENSE...
DYOSKO! E AKO GUMAWA LANG NG PANG-SELF-DEFENSE KO, EH! 'ALA PA KONG GASTOS!...
ANO BA GINAWA MO?
'ETO, SUMPIT! PWEDE MAGING DEADLY 'TO, HA?!... INGAT...
POP!

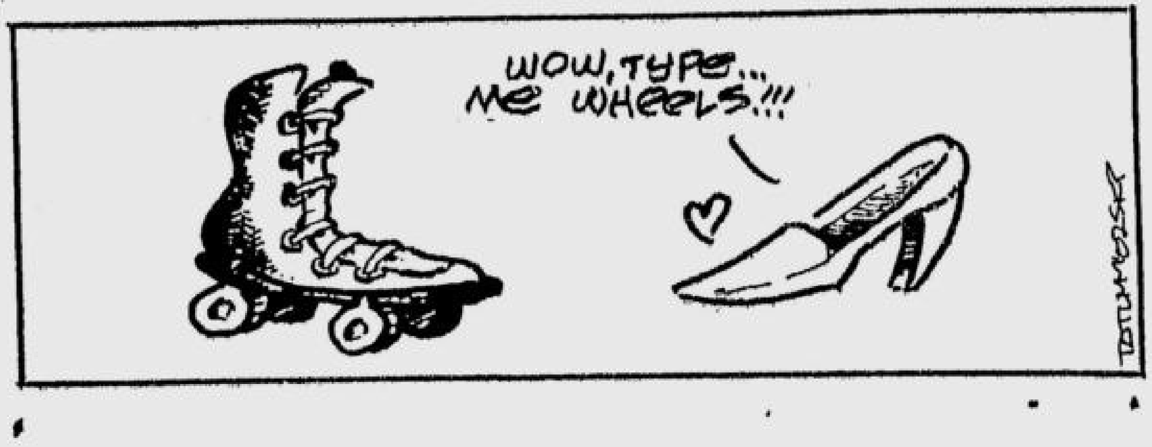
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


WALA NA PONG BAHA AMANG NOAH!!!
ANO PO KAYANG LUPA ITONG ATING NARATING?!!
MARAMING BASURA!!! AH!! NASA PILIPINAS TAYO!!!
AY!!! BABALIK NA PO KAMI SA ARK!!! SIGURADO PONG BABAHA ULI!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WOW, TYPE... ME WHEELS!!!
TATUM

100 YEARS

Hanes™

AND STILL FLYING HIGH

OUR BRIEF HISTORY.

The Hanes brand was born in the Southeastern United States, in the state of North Carolina. North Carolina is still the corporate home of Hanes today-- the brand has grown to be the largest apparel brand in the world. From humble beginnings as a family-owned business to a key part of a $20 billion global company, Sara Lee Corporation, the Hanes brand has an eventful history.

☆**1800's** P.H. Hanes Tobacco Company founded by Hanes brothers, J. Wesley and Pleasant. ☆**1900** Tobacco company sold to R.J. Reynolds for $175,000. ☆**1901** Brothers Pleasant & J. Wesley Hanes form P.H Hanes Knitting Company and Shamrock Mills (men's hosiery) and start manufacturing men's underwear. ☆**1910** Shamrock Mills changes its name to Hanes Hosiery Mill Co. and switches to manufacturing women's hosiery. ☆**1920** Hanes Hosiery exits the men's hosiery business to focus on the growing women's business. ☆**1920** P.H. Hanes expands into undershirts, briefs, sleepwear, and knitted shorts. ☆**1930** Both companies remain prosperous during the Great Depression. ☆**1940** World War II affects both companies, as Hanes Hosiery must curtail women's hosiery production due to the war's need for nylon. P.H. Hanes stays busy meeting the needs of U.S. servicemen for underwear. ☆**1950** Hanes Hosiery invents seamless hosiery manufacturing and backseams are a thing of the past (until they come back in the 70's as a fashion statement). ☆**1965** Hanes companies merge to form Hanes Corporation, believed to be the only merger of two companies bearing the same family name. Company is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. ☆**1972** L'eggs, the most successful hosiery brand ever, is "hatched" at Hanes and then spun off as its own company. ☆**1979** Hanes Corporation, including L'eggs, is acquired by Consolidated Foods Corporation, better known by its current name, Sara Lee Corporation. The hosiery and knit products businesses are once again separated. ☆**1986** Hanes introduces the Hanes HerWay brand of women's apparel, starting with women's panties and expanding to other categories. Hanes HerWay quickly becomes a hundred million-dollar brand by itself. ☆**1989** Hanes signs an up-and-coming, young basketball player out of the University of North Carolina who has recently moved to Chicago: Michael Jordan. ☆**1992** Hanes' new logo and advertising campaign are introduced, letting consumers know that we "Just Can't Wait 'Til We Get Our Hanes On You." ☆**1994** Hanes sponsors the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway. Responding to a lack of laundering facilities, Hanes airlifts underwear to the international press in the small village of Lillehammer. ☆**1996** Hanes sponsors the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia and the 1996 U.S. Olympic Team. As part of the sponsorship, Hanes raises almost $1million for underprivileged children in Atlanta and for UNICEF by auctioning limited edition t-shirts for 517 days. The final T-shirt is auctioned for more than $42,000, the most expensive T-shirt ever. ☆**1997** Hanes brand sales surpass $2 billion worth of high quality, affordable casual clothing for today's everyday lifestyle around the world. ☆**1999** Over 7,000 Special Olympics athletes converge on North Carolina for the 1999 Special Olympics Summer Games. Hanes is there as the highest-level sponsor, providing uniforms for over 35,000 volunteers. Hanes employees volunteer at the track and field venue. ☆**2000** Hanes is the #1 brand of apparel in the world.

Although the brand enjoys a rich 100-year American history, Hanes is by no means a stranger to Filipino consumers. Since the early 1980s, Filipinos have been treated to the high quality and unmatched comfort of Hanes.

AMERICA'S #1 CHOICE!

With literally hundreds of brands to choose from in stores across the country, consumers overwhelmingly chose Hanes as their favorite brand of apparel for the second consecutive year. Hanes took top honors in Men's, Women's, and Intimate Apparel and placed a close third for Children's Apparel, based on the 2001 Top Brands Survey conducted for DSN Retailing Today magazine by Leo J. Shapiro & Associates. Hanes also took top honors for apparel in the 2000 Top Brands Survey.

"Hanes is all about bringing comfort and style to today's busy, budget-conscious families," said Bob Scott, vice president of consumer marketing for Hanes. "The Hanes brand has been an American family favorite for a century, and we are committed to being mom's choice for the next 100 years with new and innovative products."

Hanes also leverages its decade-long relationship with basketball superstar Michael Jordan to advertise new products. The current Hanes television commercial, entitled "Locker Room," features Michael Jordan and the latest styles of Hanes boxers and boxer briefs.

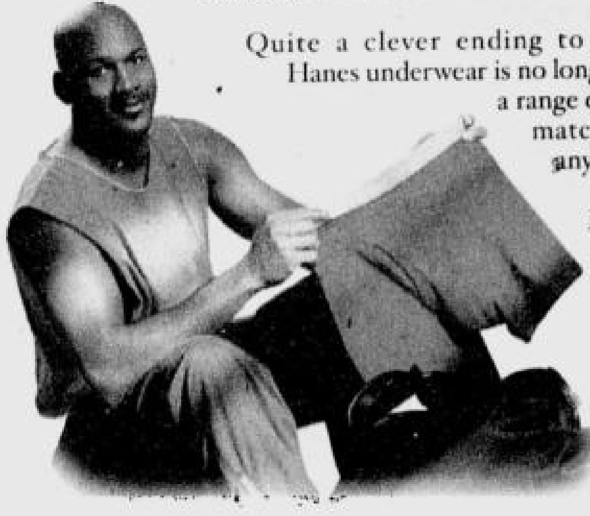
"Hanes is so much more than white briefs," said Scott. "We are really focused on clothing for the entire family from traditional basics like socks and underwear to more updated styles such as fleece anoraks and cotton pique sportshirts."

Sara Lee Branded Apparel is an operating unit of Sara Lee Corporation, a global consumer packaged goods company with more than $17.5 billion in annual revenues. Its leading brands include Hanes, Hanes Her Way, Bali, Just My Size, L'eggs and Playtex.

HIS AIRNESS REVEALED

Michael Jordan, the legend. Michael Jordan, in legendary Hanes underwear. Sounds familiar? Well, it's probably because Michael continues to be the lead endorser for America's #1 apparel brand. In the latest television spot from Hanes, four or five clean-cut guys are standing in the locker room, having a generally good time generating locker-room banter and modeling their underwear. Out of the corner of his eye one of the guys (we'll call him Guy I) spots Michael Jordan who has just walked in and sat on a bench across the room. After nudging his Adonis-like buddies, Guy I makes eye contact with Jordan. Jordan stares at Guy I and then turns his eyes to Guy I's briefs. MJ then pulls a pair of red Hanes Briefs out of his gym bag. Jordan ends with his signature smile.

In the next scene of the commercial, Jordan has returned to the locker room a week later to find his followers now sporting red. However they're too late. Jordan once again pulls a surprise and pulls out a new polka-dotted pair from his bag. He leaves the locker room.



Quite a clever ending to make a very important point. Hanes underwear is no longer just about white briefs. It's about a range of designs, styles and colors that can match your mood and your lifestyle--- anytime, anywhere.

Michael Jordan ends his latest commercial by saying, "As long as they're Hanes." We couldn't have put it any better.

THERE'S A PIECE OF HANES FOR EVERYONE

Hanes HerWay Intimates

Hanes HerWay bras encompass a varied set of great looking, great fitting styles that make women look and feel their best. Hanes HerWay delivers comfort and quality that meet the expectations of women and give them the confidence to do what they want.

Hanes HerWay Underwear

Hanes HerWay offers soft, comfortable underwear that feels good all day, everyday. They are carefully designed to bring you the best in style and comfort. Hanes HerWay offers traditional favorites and new collections that customers will love.

Men's Boxers and Briefs

Hanes Woven and Knit Boxers provide men with the freedom of movement and a stylish look. They are constructed of soft 100% cotton or cotton blends for the ultimate in style and comfort. With a wide range of prints and colors, Hanes boxers have something for everyone.

Hanes Briefs offer an experience of quality and comfort, with double-stitched seams and an elastic waistband for the fit that will stay comfortably in place. Hanes briefs are available in basic and fashionable styles and colors.

Men's T-shirts

The Hanes T-shirt is a consumer favorite because of its superior 100% cotton comfort. It's constructed with ultra-soft ring-spun cotton and offers a better feel and fit. Hanes shirts are available in the traditional white but also come in seasonal colors.

Sara Lee

Is there a 4th of July in England?

What is half divided by half?

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To	Key in
Join	**MG**
Register	**<FULL NAME>*<AGE>*<COMPLETE ADDRESS>**
Check your raffle points	**RAFFLE**
Change to moderate questions	**MOD**
Change to difficult questions	**DIF**
Quit	**QUIT**
Reactivate/play again	**ON**

*Send all keywords to **246**. Text mesages sent are ₱ 2.50 each.*
Promo period is from July 13 to September 14, 2002.

Correct Answer	Points
1st attempt	20
2nd attempt	10
3rd attempt	5

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July 28	*1st Draw*
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August 25	*3rd Draw*
September 15	*Grand Draw*

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Barbra's 'Timeless' concert exceeds viewers' expectations

STREISAND. Seamless combination of plus factors.

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR everlasting thanks to the Star World cable channel for recently airing "Timeless," Barbara Streisand's acclaimed farewell concert. We expected the show to be a treat, but it exceeded our expectations.

Sharon Cuneta and other singing stars who have lined up big concerts of their own this year would do well to watch a tape of Streisand's show—not to try to imitate it, but to appreciate the combination of excellent factors that made it such a superlative viewing and listening experience.

Those factors include Streisand's exceptional talent, her vast experience, her versatility (as singer, actress, director, songwriter), the show's format and theme, the use of filmclips and vintage tape sequences, imaginative sets, costumes and lights—and the special emotional significance of the fact that the much-loved star was retiring, at the relatively young age of 60.

It was the seamless combination and integration of these factors that made the "Timeless" concert so memorable. Truly, Streisand couldn't have exited from the performing scene in a better or more significant way.

Key

It turned out that the key to the show's theme was expressed by the show's title. The concert was all about time in its various meanings and contexts, which theme was further underscored by the choice of songs performed by Streisand in the show.

The concert began with a scene set in 1955, showing the then 13-year-old Streisand and her mother going to a recording studio to cut a single. In this scene, Streisand was played by a teenage lookalike who also sang wonderfully well.

Streisand herself must have been impressed with her young lookalike and "soundalike" because she shared some numbers with her later in the show.

Unpopular

The point of the scene in the recording studio was to establish that, from the very start, Streisand had her own notions about how she should sing a song, a trait that would make her unpopular and feared by her co-workers throughout her career. At the same time, however, it was this artistic intransigence that made her unique among her contemporaries.

As Streisand herself observed, "I wasn't trying to be different, it just came naturally!

Then, she segued into the show's theme: memories—as articulated by one of her signature songs. Her point: "You don't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been."

Now that she was retiring, she needed to know what her long, stellar career as an entertainer had been about, so she would know what she should do in the coming years.

Hyperactive

(It's difficult to believe that the hyper-active Streisand can really retire from show biz. She may no longer sing before a live audience, but she probably has some more writing and directing projects up her sleeve.)

Looking back on her early years, Streisand recalled that she used to earn only $50 a week from singing in small dives. Thus, she had to buy her clothes from thrift shops. Ironically, this money-saving ploy earned her a reputation for being a "creative" and "original" dresser!

Moving slowly up in the club circuit, Streisand finally got her break when she was tapped as the opening act for a tour of Benny Goodman and his orchestra. The came Broadway stardom— and Streisand's stellar ascent in show biz was assured, not just in the theater, but also in recording, on TV and in the movies.

Songs from musicals

As Streisand went from one chapter of her life to another, she highlighted each development with a song— from "Something's Coming" to "Cry Me A River"—and did a number of songs from musicals to vivify her Broadway experience—"Lover, Come Back to Me," "Second Hand Rose," "Don't Rain on My Parade," etc.

Next came other excellent songs, rendered in the inimitable Streisand manner—"Something Wonderful," "Alfie," "Being Alive," and the song she herself wrote, "Evergreen."

With each song, the audience went wild with delight. It was like Streisand was gifting them with a choice musical retrospective of her entire career, all in one unforgettable evening! *(To be concluded)*

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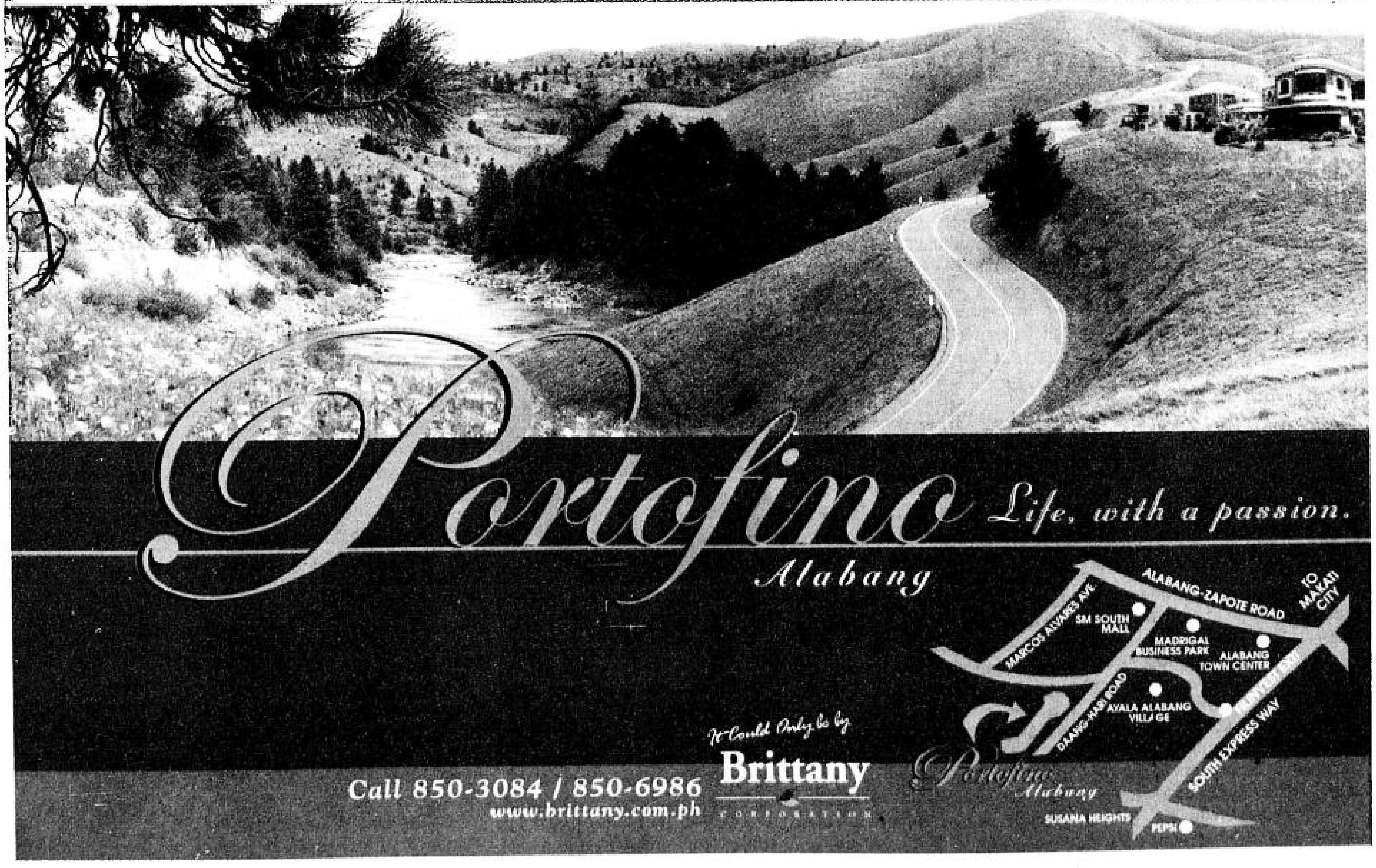

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Save those outstanding children's programs!

"FIVE AND UP." Folding up after 10 years.

By Nestor U. Torre

VIEWERS, TV people and advertisers all say that good shows for children are an important component of television programming. However, what they say is different from what they do. Good TV programs for children often go without the support they need to continue telecasting, and young viewers are left with increasingly fewer shows to view, beyond violent cartoons and anime productions.

Hollow promises

Clearly, something should be done about the situation that goes beyond the usual hollow promises of support, Which is why we should all take heed of the recent cautionary announcement of the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television:

After "Batibot," two more children's programs are about to go off the air—"Five and Up" and "Chikiting Patrol."

"Five and Up " has been telecast for the past 10 years and has won top awards fro quality and substance, not just in the Philippines but internationally. Its most recent honor was the prestigious Prix Jeunesse, the highest award for children's programs in Europe.

For its part, "Batibot" won the Japan Prize, regarded as the Oscar for educational programs worldwide. And "Chikiting Patrol" has been telecasting for 15 years.

Lack of support

So, why are these superior shows biting the dust? Because of lack of support from viewers and advertisers, and TV channels' need to maximize the money-making potential of their programming time.

That's the "practical," commercial viewpoint. But our TV people need to remember that, when their channels are given franchises to operate by the government, they promise to provide balanced programming, of which good shows for children are a key element.

So, when TV channels cease to telecast fine shows like "Five and Up," they in effect fail to live up to their pledge to come up with balanced programming, and their franchises could be revoked.

As for viewers, our problem is the sad fact that we have a passive attitude when it comes to television, and we lazily take good programs for granted.

Viewer power

We have to remind ourselves that we have the collective "viewer power" to fight for the retention of good shows. We should make dynamic use of this power and act to save these three quality shows for children.

But the most influential sector here is made up of the advertisers whose commercials keep the wheels of television turning. We urge advertisers of products for children to place their spots in these three shows, so they can generate the funds needed for them to stay or go back on the air.

Positive values

After all, advertisers occasionally come out with collective statements to the effect that they appreciate the power of television to influence viewers for good or for bad, and are bent on supporting shows that promote quality and positive values. Well, they can't do better than supporting "endangered TV species" like "Five and Up," "Batibot" and "Chikiting Patrol."

Pin's new playroom

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

BY NOW, Pin Antonio's name should be familiar to people who watch TV and whose local idols include Bing and Janno Gibbs, Ariel Rivera and Gelli de Belen, and Jaya, Kris Aquino and Zsa Zsa Padilla. That's because when there's a brand-new look these people are sporting, you can bet Pin is behind it.

Creative director

Just who is Pin Antonio? Well, if there are divas in singing and dancing and acting, you can bet Pin Antonio is the diva in hair cutting and coloring. She is the creative director of Salon de Manila. After her big win in Singapore as lone Asian champ and global contender for the much-coveted international Davines Awards in Rome, Pin has inaugurated her newest branch on Tomas Morato.

It's just the right address, beside Ratsky's, and in the neighborhood of the TV and moviemaking crowd. "We planned this branch precisely to cater to movie and TV celebrities who are a special market all by themselves. These people need to look their glamorous best all the time, and we are here to assist them," Pin states.

Excited

"We are also excited to open a branch in Alabang," she added. Pin is famous for trendsetting, and Salon de Manila is well-known for creating a distinct look for many celebrities.

But even the perfumed set consisting of the country's leading families can attest to Pin's passion for artistry in hairstyling. She has a team of artistic experts in each Salon de Manila branch.

Pin takes a sabbatical abroad every year, but it is in fact more work than play. She visits the Vidal Sassoon salon in London to brush up on the newest tricks before proceeding to whatever other place is holding a seminar, a product launch or an exhibit on hair care and grooming products. Then she comes home to work—and share what she has learned.

Uniquely suited

At Salon de Manila, the name Davines of Italy means a line of excellent hair care products that are uniquely suited to the need of the times for fashionably-cut hair that is healthy and well-maintained.

Salon de Manila is unique because each branch is located in a strategic area. Makati has two branches, one in Legaspi Village and another in Salcedo Village.

Gary Lumapas is team leader in the Somerset Salcedo branch, tel. no. 888-6651, while Jomar Enabacan is at the helm of Legaspi Village branch, tel. no. 816-7920. Ellen Gerapusco handles the Blue Ridge branch, tel. no. 437-9797, while Teresita Datu is head of the Banawe team, tel. no. 732-6014. Ross Pilotin has been promoted to team leader for the newly opened Tomas Morato branch, 373-9510.

SALON de Manila's Tomas Morato branch grand opening with (from left) Sonny Mangundayao, Randy Santiago, Kris Aquino, Pin Antonio and Zsa Zsa Padilla.

AMY Perez and Pin Antonio.

SCI-FI presentation modeled by Jay Yu of Wise Guys.

Check out Pin's new playroom on Tomas Morato!

* * *

Leoncia G. Dipasupil passed away on July 25 at the age of 87, after a lingering illness. Her body lies at Arlington Funeral Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

E-mail author at mn_photocom@i-manila.com.ph or call 522-1905, 522-5185 or 89 or CF (0916) 476-6613.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Wency Cornejo loves composing

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

"HABANG May Buhay" is now considered a classic because people usually sing it during weddings and funerals. But Wency Cornejo admits that he is afraid to "explore" musically, and just plays around with three major guitar chords.

"My main tool in composing is my guitar! These three chords work for me! *Natatakot akong gumamit ng bagong* chord. Maybe I picked up these three chords from U2 (a foreign rock band). *Tatlong* chords *lang sila pero bumabawi sila sa* arrangements, *nilalagyan ng* embellishments.

"I'm a gigantic U2 fan! I owe them my life in music. Even before I joined AfterImage, I listened to them. *May* texture *'yung mga kanta nila.* Listen to 'Bad,' 'Save My Life,' 'Pride,' and 'New Year's Day.'"

On stage with AfterImage, Wency was a grandiose performer. Wency without AfterImage is more subdued and calm. He changed his image and chopped off his long locks, opting for a crewcut. "New image *para malayo sa dati kong hitsura at para mas bumagay sa mga kanta.*

"With AfterImage, our songs were not commercial all the time, so I had to make up for it by being larger-than-life when I performed. But we still stuck to the formula and wrote songs for ourselves.

"On our second album, 'Tag-ulan, Tag-araw,' *bukas na bukas ang* creative juices *namin doon. Hindi kami binigyan ng* limitations. But my favorite AfterImage album is 'Bagong Araw' because we experimented—but it didn't sell very well."

Does he enjoy performing alone, or does he miss his bandmates? "I miss being with them but I love what I do now. My bandmates always knew that I had an inclination for pop. *Pero* as a solo performer, *minsan gusto kong umabot sa* point *na ayoko nang mag*-show. That's the songwriter in me talking! I'm a reluctant singer but an eager songwriter.

"I don't consider myself a singer *kasi may mga kantang hindi kaya ng boses ko. Hindi malawak ang* range *ng boses ko.* After 13 years of performing, *nakakapagod na, mas gusto ko na lang mag*-record *ng mga kanta,*" he sighs. "But then again, if I don't perform onstage, how can I make my audience accept my songs."

Wency worries that he doesn't have enough angst to sustain his songwriting. "During the late '60s, *ang daming* angst *ng tao, kaya ang gaganda ng mga kanta nila. Uso noon ang* 'free love' *at mga* communes and it was alright for people to be with everybody else, *walang* boundaries. In the '90s, *ang daming* limitations *sa* relationships—but I'm not talking about love. Love has no boundaries."

He admits that he has eccentricities, which may be synonymous to artistry. And since Wency is prepared to be a "struggling" artist for the next seven years, we're bound to hear more "classics" from him.

Moonstar88 rocks

Moonstar88 loves to perform live for young audiences. Their best gig was at the Bahay ng Alumni at UP Diliman. "We loved it because they participated and sang along with us," Acel, Moonstar88 vocalist, grins.

Though the bulk of their audience comes from the youth, they also have five-year-old fans and adults, because their music is wholesome.

How would they compare their new album to the first?

"*Mas nag*-grow *kami.* We all wrote songs for the second album," Herbert, guitarist shares.

What was the hardest song they recorded?

"'Huwag Muna' because it was acoustic," Herbert says.

"'Ang Pag-Ibig Kong Ito,'" Paolo butts in. "'Sabi Mo,'" Acel shares.

The basic structure of the song is prepared before they trek to the recording studio, but changes can occur as they record the song. They can change its mood or feel, the arrangement, the emotion and additional instruments. But they're invariably happy with the finished product. They make it a point to sing all their originals when they have gigs.

Allan K vows to make 'The Weakest Link' stronger

Move over, Edu Manzano. Even if you're not the weakest link as far as the stats are concerned, you have to take the exit door as host because Allan K is taking over.

We are happy that Allan K has been given the vote of confidence by Viva TV, the local franchisee of the game show, to call the shots for the new season of "The Weakest Link." From humble beginnings in Bacolod, Allan K braved the call of the city where he plotted his rags-to-riches ascent.

From sing-along bars where he was paid a mere allowance, he rose to being a show master and TV personality, and Allan K is now a certified businessman, too, overseeing the operations of his dream bar called Clowns in Quezon City.

MOONSTAR88. Wholesome music.

Spotlight on Shane West and James Marsters

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

THIS week's Q and A:

"My cousin and I instantly fell in love with Shane West in 'A Walk to Remember.' He is even more handsome here than in an earlier film, 'Whatever It Takes.' But other than his TV show, 'Once and Again,' we know so little of him."—*Paulette Hernando, Ilocos Norte*

"Please feature info on Shane West's TV, movie and recording career in your column. I'm looking forward to knowing more about him."—*Cathy Concepcion, Mayamot, Antipolo City.*

Shane West decided to pursue an acting career at age 15, while living in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He acted in local productions before moving to Los Angeles, and debuted in the Mark Taper Forum staging of John Irving's "The Cider House Rules" (1998), which was later adapted for the movies (starring Tobey Maguire).

The 24-year-old, 6'1" actor (born on June 10) then played cameos on TV shows like "Sliders," "Boy Meets World," "Picket Fences" and "Buffy, The Vampire Slayer."

But it wasn't until he landed the role of Eli Sammler in "Once and Again" (shown locally on RPN 9) that he got his major break. He has since starred in the films "Liberty Heights," "Whatever It Takes," "Dracula 2000," "A Time for Dancing," "Get Over It," "Ocean's 11" and his five-hanky blockbuster with Mandy Moore, "A Walk to Remember."

The brown-haired, green-eyed actor dated actress Rachael Leigh Cook in 1998 but the relationship was short-lived. His first huge crush was "Friends" star Courtney Cox-Smith.

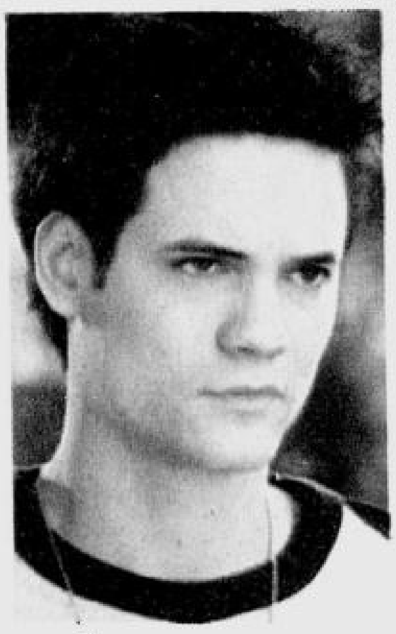
His next movie, "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen," where he portrays Tom Sawyer, is an interesting production set in an alternate Victorian world where Allan Quatermain (Sean Connery), Dorian Gray (Stuart Townsend), Dr. Henry Jekyll/Mr. Hyde (Jason Flemyng) and other famous literary/fantasy/fictional characters (The Phantom, The Invisible Man, Dante Inferno, Capt. Nemo) team-up on a secret mission. That's something to look forward to!

Another thing that keeps the actor busy is his band, Jonny Was (formerly Average Joe), which has a cut, "So What Does It All Mean?," in the soundtrack of "A Walk to Remember" in which West sings the lead. We wonder, though, why the group used "West, Gould & Fitzgerald" on the credits instead. The trio is working on their debut album.

For fan mail: 2850 Los Angeles, California 90067 USA or 8660 Hayden Pl Culver City, Ca 90212 USA.

"I'm a big fan of your column—a great source of reliable info about celebrities. Please feature "Buffy, The Vampire Slayer's" James Marsters. He has such great presence on the show, yet so little is known of him."—*Adrienne Marie Santos, San Mateo, Rizal.*

Apparently, James Wesley Marsters likes to be mysterious, like his character "Spike" on "Buffy." He doesn't want to discuss his age. Depending on which you believe, he was born either in 1962, 1969 or 1971. That makes him 39, 32 or 30 years old! Well, that's so much younger than the vampire, Spike, who's supposedly more than 120 years old! Though he doesn't mind sharing that his birthday is on Aug. 20.



WEST. Used to date Rachel Leigh Cook.

The 5'10" Greenville, California native has a pretty impressive acting rep: He is an alumnus of the prestigious Juilliard, the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, and the American Conservatory Theatre. His first acting experience came when he performed as Eyeore in "Winnie The Pooh" in fourth grade. His favorite play is Shakespeare's "Macbeth."

As a stage actor, his impressive list of stage outings includes "The Tempest" and the Noah Wyle-produced "The Why." He co-founded the New Mercury Theater Company.

His character Spike first appeared in the second season of "Buffy" in a cameo and quickly gained such a big cult following that by the fourth season, he was already part of the regular cast. Looking back, he recalls in jest, "All I wanted when I came on the show was a good body count and a good death, that's all!" After all, he was playing Buffy's antagonist, whose main objective was to get rid of the teen slayer.

But Marsters, in real life, is very kind and is well-loved by fans. He has the "unique" distinction of winning "The Sexiest Male Vampire" Award at the "Nocturnal 2K Convention" (for fantasy and sci-fi fans) in London in July 2000.

He also has a 2001 Saturn Best Supporting Actor Award for "Buffy" and a 2002 Cinescope Genre Face of the Future from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror.

He got the scar on his left eyebrow when he was mugged while living in Queens. No, his hair is not platinum blond, it's brown. He will soon star in a black comedy titled "Chance" on the big screen.

Like Shane West, James headlines a rock band. It's called Ghost in the Robot, and it toured hip clubs in LA in May and staged sold-out gigs in Club Med in France. Write him: c/o UPN, 11800 Wilshire blvd, Los Angeles, California 90025.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

TV host Miriam Quiambao tries the restaurant business

By Edmund L. Sicam

MIRIAM, right, with Spargo co-owner Shiela Romero and singer Pops Fernandez.

IT'S not everyday that one dines with a beauty queen and TV host, so when "Unang Hirit's" Miriam Quiambao invited us to sample the culinary delights of Spargo, where she is part-owner with partners Hans Montenegro (her colleague on "Unang Hirit" and ex-boyfriend, as we recently reported here), Shiela B. Romero, and former press secretary Mike Toledo, we readily accepted.

Spargo is not a franchise, according to Miriam. It is a coined word chosen to convey the Mediterranean offerings of the resto. Spargo is located at the Megastrip and shares the space with Azzurro, which serves pizza, pasta, and antipasti, as well as wines from the different regions of Italy.

Spargo, on the other hand, specializes in grilled versions of world flavors. There's Samurai Special with marinated chunks of beef in teriyaki sauce and steamed rice; Skewing in Manila with pork adobo, eggplant with adobo sauce served with steamed rice, and Ramayana's Pride, an "Indian-inspired" dish with lamb, tomatoes, dijonaise and buttered rice.

Vegetarians can order Skipper's Choice, Green Meets Grill, and salads good for two. The prices are reasonable, with most of the main fare costing less than P200.

Miriam told us that she was invited by her ex-boyfriend Hans to invest in the resto when they were still on. During dinner, we found out that they had just broken up a week before. She told us it was an amicable parting of ways so it would not affect their jobs as TV hosts and their involvement in the resto. In fact, Hans joined us while we sampled Spargo's grilled specialties.

From time to time, diners can actually have the pleasure of being waited on by Miriam, who tries as much as possible to be present at the resto. She also likes the fact that the restaurant is health-conscious. Since the meat is grilled, there is less cholesterol in the food.

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NEWMAN. Just can't seem to stop working.

Paul Newman forgoes retirement, returns to screen for 'Perdition'

By David Germain

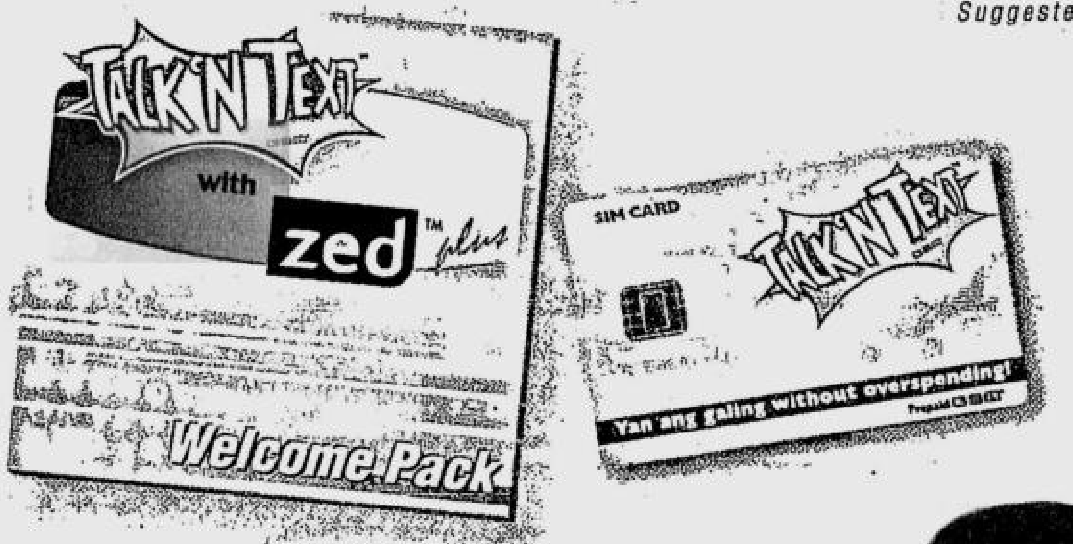
CHICAGO—The reports of Paul Newman's retirement have been greatly exaggerated.

Of course, those reports originated with Newman himself, who consistently fails to follow through on his intentions to give up acting, race-car driving, political activism and management of his Newman's Own food brand, whose proceeds go to charity.

"I've been trying to quit almost everything I do for the last 10 years, and I've managed to quit absolutely nothing," Newman, 77, said in an interview to promote his latest film, "Road to Perdition."

"I was going to give up my race team, I was going to quit racing. I was going to quit films. I was going to turn the salad-

PAUL/ p. F2



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What's megastar Sharon Cuneta really like?

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

TO little girls, Sharon Cuneta is the shiny, bright "star" they look up to. To housewives, her endorsement of ice cream, tuna, cola, burgers, lipsticks, and powder guarantee them the best. And to other celebrities, she is sweetness personified.

Mystique and talent

She has enough mystique and talent to endear her to anyone. But what is she *really* like?

Anthony Pangilinan: "Sharon is one of the most organized persons I know. She's the official directory of the whole Pangilinan clan. If you need their birthdays, addresses, pager numbers or cell phone numbers, Sharon has them! She updates the directory every year. She hates disorganized people. She makes herself available to everybody but she doesn't like to waste her time."

Gary Valenciano: "She's very human and casual. She loves pasta. She's a fantastic cook. I don't know how Francis (Pangilinan) manages to stay trim. She makes excellent chili con carne. And she promised to make me some, so I'll keep bugging her until she does.

"When she gets mad, she becomes extremely quiet. When she's in a hurry to finish what she has to do, I know she's mad. But I've never really seen her get violent or *bastos.*"

Sandy Santamaria: "I'm the associate producer for all her movies at Viva, and Sharon wants the set to have a relaxed atmosphere. She loves working with a fixed staff—from the production designer down to the utility people. *Kung kanino na siya* comfortable, *'yon ang gusto niyang ka-trabaho.*

"Pag nasa set *siya, ayaw niyang maramdaman na nagtatrabaho siya.* When we're inside her dressing room or van, she wants us to be relaxed and happy. She loves *chika-chika* but when the cameras start grinding, she really works! On the last day of shooting, she gives gifts to everybody, with matching handwritten notes. She's *malambing* to everyone, *kaya nagiging* attached *sa kanya ang mga tao.*"

CUNETA. Wants to finish college.

Problem

"While she was in Boston, I missed her presence because she would beep and call everyday. When I had a problem getting pregnant, Sharon was very concerned. She referred me to her OB, her auntie in the States. She would tell me *na hipuin ko 'yung tiyan ko para mabuntis ako kasabay niya.* When she arrived home from her trips to the States, she would bring me boxes of ovulation prediction tests.

"She loves doing movies, but she also wants to finish college. It's one of her dreams."

Fanny Serrano: *"Noon, ayoko sa kanya.* She was too sweet to be true! *Ang likot-likot pa niyang* make-up-*an. Galaw nang galaw, salita nang salita.* But in 1989, Viva called me to do her make-up for "Oras-Oras, Araw-Araw," *at doon ko nakita na totoo palang* sweet *siya.*

"Tinuruan niya akong pumunta sa bookstores *at* museums abroad. *Tinuruan din niya ako ng* proper etiquette.

Sincere

"She's very sincere. *Ang dami niyang na*-turn-down *na* product endorsements because she doesn't use the products."

Director Olive Lamasan: "On the set of 'Madrasta,' Sharon would have *manggang hilaw* with *bagoong*, fishballs, *gulaman at sago* at any time of the day. While we were dubbing, she ate *isaw. May* phobia *siya sa daga.*

"She's very organized, always glued to her laptop for everything—from her journal to her daily accounting."

"She's very intelligent. She sees things from all points, but stupidity irritates her. *Ayaw niya 'yung paulit-ulit na* mistakes. She hates being abused because she's very generous..."

"Sharon's room is like one big *bodega*. All her books, letters, dried flowers, and gifts are there. She's very sentimental so she doesn't want to put them away. I was with her for six years on "The Sharon Cuneta Show' and she never gave a gift without a personal, handwritten note—from the utility man to the executive producer. She loves writing notes so *hindi pare-pareho 'yung* messages.

"She probably fell in love with Francis (Pangilinan) because he writes beautiful love letters!"

Two child actors topbill new films

By Nestor U. Torre

THIS is the best time for child actors to make it in Hollywood, as an increasing number of films focus on young protagonists. After "Harry Potter" and "Spy Kids," new movies like Stuart Little 2" and "About a Boy" are poised to click with viewers in a big way, and further the careers of their young leads, Jonathan Lipnicki and Nicholas Hoult, respectively.

Jonathan, who was also in "Jerry Maguire" and the first "Stuart Little" film, reprises his role as George Little, Stuart's older "brother."

Sequel

Yes, the Little family is all present and accounted for in this sequel, and that includes the characters played by Geena Davis, Hugh Laurie, and George and Stuart's new kid sister.

What makes this film different from the first "Stuart Little" production? Jonathan shares, "It's more visually adventurous—Stuart even flies a plane. And we have new characters, like Margalo and Falcon.

"But the best thing about 'Stuart Little 2' is that it's about friendship, how it matters most in times of trouble, so you have to stick by your friends, and help them out of tough situations!"

What makes Jonathan win plum roles in films, over hundreds of other child actors who audition for them? It's his combination of frisky innocence *and* wisdom beyond his tender years.

Stellar billing

Another outstanding young talent who's impressed the film veterans he works with is Nicholas Hoult, who shares stellar billing in "About a Boy" with Hugh Grant, no less.

The film, based on Nick Hornby's book, intends the true identity of the "boy" to be ambiguous: is he the overgrown kid played by Grant, or Nicolas as a lonely schoolboy?

It took numerous auditions before Nicholas was finally chosen for the plum role. First, he read for the casting director. Later, the two directors, Paul and Chris Weitz, took a good look at him. They must have liked what they saw because Grant himself finally read key scenes from the script with him.

Popular actor

Nicholas confesses that he was scared stiff before Grant auditioned him. He knew that the popular actor had to feel comfortable working with him before he would be hired.

Well, the empathy clearly was there, so Grant approved Nicholas for the important part. More than that, he took a special interest in the young actor.

Nicholas shares, "He helped me a lot by giving me ideas and teaching me something new everyday. He made it easy for me to get into my role. He's my idol now!"

HOULT AND LIPNICKI. Frisky innocence and precocious wisdom.

The twist is, after "About a Boy" was seen in preview, many critics felt it was Nicholas' performance, rather than Grant's, that made the movie an especially memorable viewing experience!

Paul Newman forgoes retirement, returns to screen for 'Perdition'

From p. F1

dressing business over to somebody else. And get out of politics. And unfortunately, I'm busier now than before," said Newman, who performed onstage for the first time in 35 years last month, in "Our Town." (The play was produced at the Westport, Connecticut, theater where his wife, Joanne Woodward, is artistic director.)

Contender

A best-actor Academy Award winner for "The Color of Money," Newman should be a contender for the supporting-actor Oscar for "Road to Perdition." He gives a muted, world-weary performance as a Depression-era mob boss torn between devotion to his biological son (Daniel Craig) and loyalty to his surrogate child (Tom Hanks), a hit man bent on vengeance over the deaths of his wife and son.

Along with two honorary Oscars, Newman has earned eight best-actor nominations for such films as "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "The Hustler," "Cool Hand Luke" and "The Verdict." Two of his most memorable roles came opposite Robert Redford in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "The Sting."

Newman is such a screen legend that even Hanks, with two Oscars of his own, went in feeling star-struck.

"He'd slug me if I was to call him an icon that I was intimidated by. He wouldn't want to hear anything about it. But the fact is, come on, he's Paul Newman," Hanks said.

"But he's much more than anything you'd expect. He's much more relaxed, unassuming. He gets it. He understands that the biggest job of being an actor, the hardest thing to do is to really capture 45 seconds of truth on film in the course of a long day."

British actor Craig also found Newman down-to-earth and pragmatic about acting.

Inspired

"I was very inspired by the fact that here's a man who's in his 70s now and still seems to have—and I hope he won't be mad at me for saying this—still has some of the fears that I have as an actor about getting it right," Craig said.

"If I could get to near his age and still have those worries and fears, I'll be a very happy person, because that's what drives me, that need to do it and get it right that he still has."

Newman said he's considered retiring "because I felt entitled. A man my age should be resting, he should be lying down. He should be supine most of the day. But it just hasn't happened that way."

What keeps him coming back?

"Restlessness, I suppose," Newman said. "I've got two more (films) cooking already."

One of those is an HBO production of "Empire Falls," based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Richard Russo, author of "Nobody's Fool," whose 1994 film adaptation earned Newman his most recent Oscar nomination.

Newman has been closely involved in developing the project, a long and complex book whose screenplay adaptation stands at 227 pages, about twice the length of a typical screenplay for a two-hour movie.AP

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JULY 27 - AUG 2

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	[illegible]
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Smart Ka Na Ba? 7:30 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Mary d' Potter 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:00 Kakasa Ka ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	3:00 Value Vision 6:00 MBA 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night *One Amazing Night: Burt Bucharch* 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	5:30 Hunter X Hunter 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Shadow of Doubt* 11:00 *Gary V By Request Part 2*	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game2 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Women of . . . 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Paninindigan sa Plaza Miranda 7:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *The Visitor*	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Mission Impossible* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *2002 Laureus Sports Awards* 11:00 Road Trip	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Rugrats 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Temptation Island 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Original Special 8:00 Rank of All Times 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 E! Goes to War
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correpondents	4:00 PBL 6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Balitang-Balital 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Two	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ang Ibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 DAR 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Greatest Fights 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Celebrity Adventures 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
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Anthony Pangilinan: "Sharon is one of the most organized persons I know. She's the official directory of the whole Pangilinan clan. If you need their birthdays, addresses, pager numbers or cell phone numbers, Sharon has them! She updates the directory every year. She hates disorganized people. She makes herself available to everybody but she doesn't like to waste her time."

Gary Valenciano: "She's very human and casual. She loves pasta. She's a fantastic cook. I don't know how Francis (Pangilinan) manages to stay trim. She makes excellent chili con carne. And she promised to make me some, so I'll keep bugging her until she does.

"When she gets mad, she becomes extremely quiet. When she's in a hurry to finish what she has to do, I know she's mad. But I've never really seen her get violent or *bastos.*"

Sandy Santamaria: "I'm the associate producer for all her movies at Viva, and Sharon wants the set to have a relaxed atmosphere. She loves working with a fixed staff—from the production designer down to the utility people. *Kung kanino na siya* comfortable, *'yon ang gusto niyang ka-trabaho.*

"Pag nasa set *siya, ayaw niyang maramdaman na nagtatrabaho siya.* When we're inside her dressing room or van, she wants us to be relaxed and happy. She loves *chika-chika* but when the cameras start grinding, she really works! On the last day of shooting, she gives gifts to everybody, with matching handwritten notes. She's *malambing* to everyone, *kaya nagiging* attached *sa kanya ang mga tao."*

Problem

"While she was in Boston, I missed her presence because she would beep and call everyday. When I had a problem getting pregnant, Sharon was very concerned. She referred me to her OB, her auntie in the States. She would tell me *na hipuin ko 'yung tiyan ko para mabuntis ako kasabay niya.* When she arrived home from her trips to the States, she would bring me boxes of ovulation prediction tests.

"She loves doing movies, but she also wants to finish college. It's one of her dreams."

CUNETA. Wants to finish college.

Fanny Serrano: *"Noon, ayoko sa kanya.* She was too sweet to be true! *Ang likot-likot pa niyang* make-up-*an. Galaw nang galaw, salita nang salita.* But in 1989, Viva called me to do her make-up for "Oras-Oras, Araw-Araw," *at doon ko nakita na totoo palang* sweet *siya.*

"Tinuruan niya akong pumunta sa bookstores *at* museums abroad. *Tinuruan din niya ako ng* proper etiquette.

Sincere

"She's very sincere. *Ang dami niyang na*-turn-down *na* product endorsements because she doesn't use the products."

Director Olive Lamasan: "On the set of 'Madrasta,' Sharon would have *manggang hilaw* with *bagoong*, fishballs, *gulaman at sago* at any time of the day. While we were dubbing, she ate *isaw. May* phobia *siya sa daga.*

"She's very organized, always glued to her laptop for everything—from her journal to her daily accounting."

"She's very intelligent. She sees things from all points, but stupidity irritates her. *Ayaw niya 'yung paulit-ulit na* mistakes. She hates being abused because she's very generous..."

"Sharon's room is like one big *bodega*. All her books, letters, dried flowers, and gifts are there. She's very sentimental so she doesn't want to put them away. I was with her for six years on "The Sharon Cuneta Show' and she never gave a gift without a personal, handwritten note—from the utility man to the executive producer. She loves writing notes so *hindi pare-pareho 'yung* messages.

"She probably fell in love with Francis (Pangilinan) because he writes beautiful love letters!"

Two child actors topbill new films

By Nestor U. Torre

THIS is the best time for child actors to make it in Hollywood, as an increasing number of films focus on young protagonists. After "Harry Potter" and "Spy Kids," new movies like Stuart Little 2" and "About a Boy" are poised to click with viewers in a big way, and further the careers of their young leads, Jonathan Lipnicki and Nicholas Hoult, respectively.

Jonathan, who was also in "Jerry Maguire" and the first "Stuart Little" film, reprises his role as George Little, Stuart's older "brother."

Sequel

Yes, the Little family is all present and accounted for in this sequel, and that includes the characters played by Geena Davis, Hugh Laurie, and George and Stuart's new kid sister.

What makes this film different from the first "Stuart Little" production? Jonathan shares, "It's more visually adventurous—Stuart even flies a plane. And we have new characters, like Margalo and Falcon.

"But the best thing about 'Stuart Little 2' is that it's about friendship, how it matters most in times of trouble, so you have to stick by your friends, and help them out of tough situations!"

What makes Jonathan win plum roles in films, over hundreds of other child actors who audition for them? It's his combination of frisky innocence *and* wisdom beyond his tender years.

Stellar billing

Another outstanding young talent who's impressed the film veterans he works with is Nicholas Hoult, who shares stellar billing in "About a Boy" with Hugh Grant, no less.

The film, based on Nick Hornby's book, intends the true identity of the "boy" to be ambiguous: is he the overgrown kid played by Grant, or Nicolas as a lonely schoolboy?

It took numerous auditions before Nicholas was finally chosen for the plum role. First, he read for the casting director. Later, the two directors, Paul and Chris Weitz, took a good look at him. They must have liked what they saw because Grant himself finally read key scenes from the script with him.

Popular actor

Nicholas confesses that he was scared stiff before Grant auditioned him. He knew that the popular actor had to feel comfortable working with him before he would be hired.

Well, the empathy clearly was there, so Grant approved Nicholas for the important part. More than that, he took a special interest in the young actor.

Nicholas shares, "He helped me a lot by giving me ideas and teaching me something new everyday. He made it easy for me to get into my role. He's my idol now!"

The twist is, after "About a Boy" was seen in preview, many critics felt it was Nicholas' performance, rather than Grant's, that made the movie an especially memorable viewing experience!

HOULT AND LIPNICKI. Frisky innocence and precocious wisdom.

Paul Newman forgoes retirement, returns to screen for 'Perdition'

From p. F1

dressing business over to somebody else. And get out of politics. And unfortunately, I'm busier now than before," said Newman, who performed onstage for the first time in 35 years last month, in "Our Town." (The play was produced at the Westport, Connecticut, theater where his wife, Joanne Woodward, is artistic director.)

Contender

A best-actor Academy Award winner for "The Color of Money," Newman should be a contender for the supporting-actor Oscar for "Road to Perdition." He gives a muted, world-weary performance as a Depression-era mob boss torn between devotion to his biological son (Daniel Craig) and loyalty to his surrogate child (Tom Hanks), a hit man bent on vengeance over the deaths of his wife and son.

Along with two honorary Oscars, Newman has earned eight best-actor nominations for such films as "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "The Hustler," "Cool Hand Luke" and "The Verdict." Two of his most memorable roles came opposite Robert Redford in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "The Sting."

Newman is such a screen legend that even Hanks, with two Oscars of his own, went in feeling star-struck.

"He'd slug me if I was to call him an icon that I was intimidated by. He wouldn't want to hear anything about it. But the fact is, come on, he's Paul Newman," Hanks said.

"But he's much more than anything you'd expect. He's much more relaxed, unassuming. He gets it. He understands that the biggest job of being an actor, the hardest thing to do is to really capture 45 seconds of truth on film in the course of a long day."

British actor Craig also found Newman down-to-earth and pragmatic about acting.

Inspired

"I was very inspired by the fact that here's a man who's in his 70s now and still seems to have—and I hope he won't be mad at me for saying this—still has some of the fears that I have as an actor about getting it right," Craig said.

"If I could get to near his age and still have those worries and fears, I'll be a very happy person, because that's what drives me, that need to do it and get it right that he still has."

Newman said he's considered retiring "because I felt entitled. A man my age should be resting, he should be lying down. He should be supine most of the day. But it just hasn't happened that way."

What keeps him coming back?

"Restlessness, I suppose," Newman said. "I've got two more (films) cooking already."

One of those is an HBO production of "Empire Falls," based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Richard Russo, author of "Nobody's Fool," whose 1994 film adaptation earned Newman his most recent Oscar nomination.

Newman has been closely involved in developing the project, a long and complex book whose screenplay adaptation stands at 227 pages, about twice the length of a typical screenplay for a two-hour movie.AP

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JULY 27 - AUG. 2

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7.00 Smart Ka Na Ba? 7:30 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Mary d' Potter 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:00 Kakasa Ka ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	3:00 Value Vision 6:00 MBA 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night *One Amazing Night: Burt Bucharch* 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	5:30 Hunter X Hunter 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Shadow of Doubt* 11:00 *Gary V By Request Part 2*	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game2 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Women of . . . 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile
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Assunta De Rossi defends Jules Ledesma

By Edmund L. Sicam

IT will be business as usual for sexy star Assunta De Rossi after her marriage to Rep. Jules Ledesma two years from now. That means she will continue to accept bold roles just as she did in the past before she met Ledesma. The actress told us during the press lunch for Star Cinema's "Jologs" that her beau doesn't want her to stop doing movies just because she's getting married.

Bad news

The bad news, though, is that some producers have reportedly backed out from previous commitments after Assunta announced her engagement to the solon. The only sure project right now is "Bahid" which she is doing for Regal Films.

"I'm ready for that," she sighed. "*Kung ayaw nilang mag-*risk *sa akin, sabihin lang nila.*"

Assunta's problem is that producers want their bold stars single and available. Male moviegoers find it hard to fantasize about sex symbols who are already attached. Rosanna Roces is one of the few exceptions, but even her marriage was not openly publicized during her heydays.

Aggravating Assunta's situation is the fact that the person she has chosen to marry is not your usual dreamboat that the press will swoon over. He is much older than Assunta and lacks the physical stature to match her 5'9" height. This has led to unflattering write-ups about the two using each other—Assunta marrying Ledesma for his wealth, and Ledesma exploiting Assunta to strengthen his hold on the masses.

Even Assunta's mom and sister Alessandra have joined the naysayers, saying Ledesma has treated them badly. Assunta, however, refuses to join the fray. "*Alam nila na hindi ako nagsasalita. Hindi ako mahilig lumaban. Di sana siniraan ko din sila. Hindi ko kaya yon.* You can choose your friends but you can't choose your relatives."

It is common knowledge that Assunta left all her financial transactions to her mom before the congressman entered the picture. Although Assunta's bank accounts are in her name, it is her mom who manages her money. Assunta says this arrangement will continue but there will be one significant change:

"*Sabi ko kay* Mommy, 'you still have control over my finances but I want to know where my money is going.' After all, it is my money so I have the right to monitor where it goes.

"*Dati kasi, pirma lang akong pirma ng* blank checks at blank withdrawal slips. It's not that I don't trust her, *pero nagma-*mature *na ako* (she turned 19 recently). *Gusto ko lang naman makita kung saan pumupunta ang kita ko. Hindi ko naman sinasuwapang ang* mommy *ko.*"

That statement says a lot about Assunta's state of mind. She has taken the first step towards independence, and her mom is hurt by this development. It's uncommon for a 19-year-old Filipina to break free from maternal control.

Clear message

Though it may not be Assunta's intention to cut her ties, this change in financial arrangements is sending a clear message: She wants to be on her own. Her mom probably thinks Ledesma has something to do with this new set-up.

Assunta is quick to defend her man: "*Wala naman siyang ginagawa, hindi siya pakialamero. Siya na raw ang magha-*handle *ng* career *ko? Hindi totoo yun.* Everyone thinks he's the *contravida. Ang sinasama ng loob niya,* he's the one who tries to protect me, *siya pa ang lumalabas na* villain."

DE ROSSI. Plays a law student in her latest film.

The actress admits that the congressman has been a patient teacher when it comes to understanding important matters like financial dealings. "*Ang saya-saya niya 'pag tinuturuan ako. Gusto niya yung para siyang* teacher."

We asked her if they will sign a pre-nuptial agreement before they finally get hitched. She gave an emphatic no, explaining that both of them feel it is a bad idea.

In the meantime, Assunta is concentrating on promoting her latest movie, "Jologs," a comedy about today's youth.

Assunta is a law student who crosses paths with a very friendly stranger (Dominic Ochoa), who she thinks wants to score with her, but eventually she discovers that he wants something else.

Others in the cast are Patrick Garcia, Baron Geisler, Jodi Santamaria, John Prats, Diether Ocampo, Vhong Navarro, Michelle Bayle, Julia Clarete and Onemig Bondoc.

Since this is an ensemble movie, Assunta doesn't get as much screen time as she's had in past movies. However, the actress accepted the project because it was something different from her usual sexy roles. Here, she doesn't get to bare or do bedroom scenes.

When movie stars turn down plum roles

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

"AUNTIE Mame" was a great success as a play on Broadway starring Rosalind Russell. She bowled over critics and award-giving bodies with her flamboyant portrayal of the eccentric Auntie Mame who raised her nephew to savor the various flavors of life.

Critics

Her husband-producer underwrote the play and movie versions, which were all successful with critics and the audience.

When the musical adaptation was conceived, Rosalind was immediately contacted to reprise the role. Her curt reply was, "I don't eat yesterday's porridge." The disappointed producers then went on a frantic search for a suitable alternate.

Mary Martin, Ethel Merman and dozens of Broadway musical stars were contacted for the plum role. Martin did not want to step into Russell's used shoes, so to speak; neither did Ethel. The others had schedule problems.

On the sideline was Angela Lansbury, a Hollywood reliable who had played second banana to Judy Garland, Ingrid Bergman and just about every other MGM star in her many years in that studio since "Gaslight." She wanted the role.

Her manager suggested her name to the producers, who postponed listening to her until they had contacted and listened to all the other stars they had in mind for the demanding role. In the meantime, Angela was back to dance and singing lessons, exercising to lose weight and getting into fighting shape for the part.

In the end, her fortitude was rewarded. She was cast in the coveted role after a surprisingly great audition. Not only did Angela do Mame justice, she went home with a Tony award for her vibrant performance.

From thence, she became a major star on Broadway. Soon, she became a television star in "Murder, She Wrote," winning Emmys during the show's long run. Disney also exploited her distinctive singing style in such hits as "Beauty and The Beast."

However, when "Mame" was turned into a film, she was bypassed for the grand old diva of comedy television, Lucille Ball. Angela must have been disappointed!

Well, what if Angela was able to play Mame on film? Would she have been nominated for an Oscar and honored with an award, as she was on Broadway? Lucille Ball was fine enough, but she had neither the class of Russell and Lansbury, nor the style to make her a sophisticated albeit eccentric grand dame.

Pedestrian characterization

Ball was just plain kooky in the role, the costume and set design almost wasted on her rather pedestrian characterization.

The role of Mame revived a flagging "supporting actress" career to transform Angela into one of entertainment's important stars. To this day, she is an active and major star in film, television and stage. She is doing even better than the likes of Elizabeth Taylor, whose talent may have been overtaxed by her legendary but alas fading beauty.

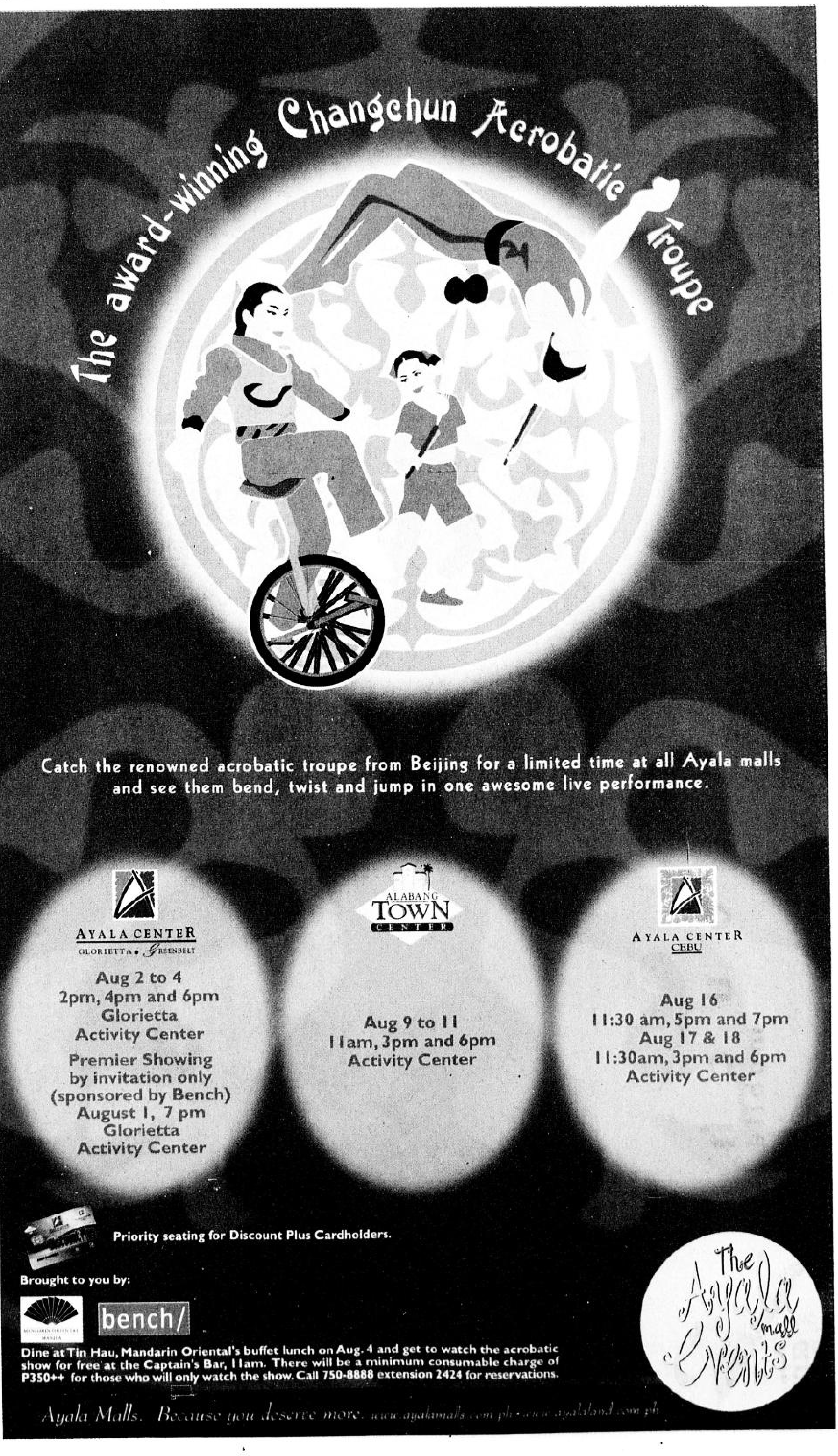
What if La Taylor had turned down "Butterfield 8" because it was about a "silly call girl," as she once described her Oscar-winning role? What if she didn't have a near-death experience during the shooting of "Cleopatra," where her torrid extramarital affair with Richard Burton was fodder for the tabloids? Would she have walked home with the Oscar for her much-derided role in "Butterfield 8"?

What if Tom Hanks had played the role of the husband in "American Beauty"? Would he have won the Academy Award as Best Actor and collected his unprecedented third Oscar? It won second choice Kevin Spacey his first statuette, making him one of Hollywood's most bankable dramatic male leads.

Did Tom whine and pine? By no means. More opportunities and other great scripts will come his way, that's for sure. He prefers to spread his wings and enter new areas of challenge, like his role in "Cast Away."

There have been losers but there have likewise been happy gainers in this merry mix-up of casting, choices and fate. After all, when an actor loses a role, another (deserving) one surely gains it and all the good fortune that goes with it.

Is it all about fate or being blessed? Why should they be at the right place at the right time with the necessary wisdom to grab the golden opportunity when it is presented to them? I guess forces beyond us have a role in all of this. Actors can only count their blessings—and their Oscars!



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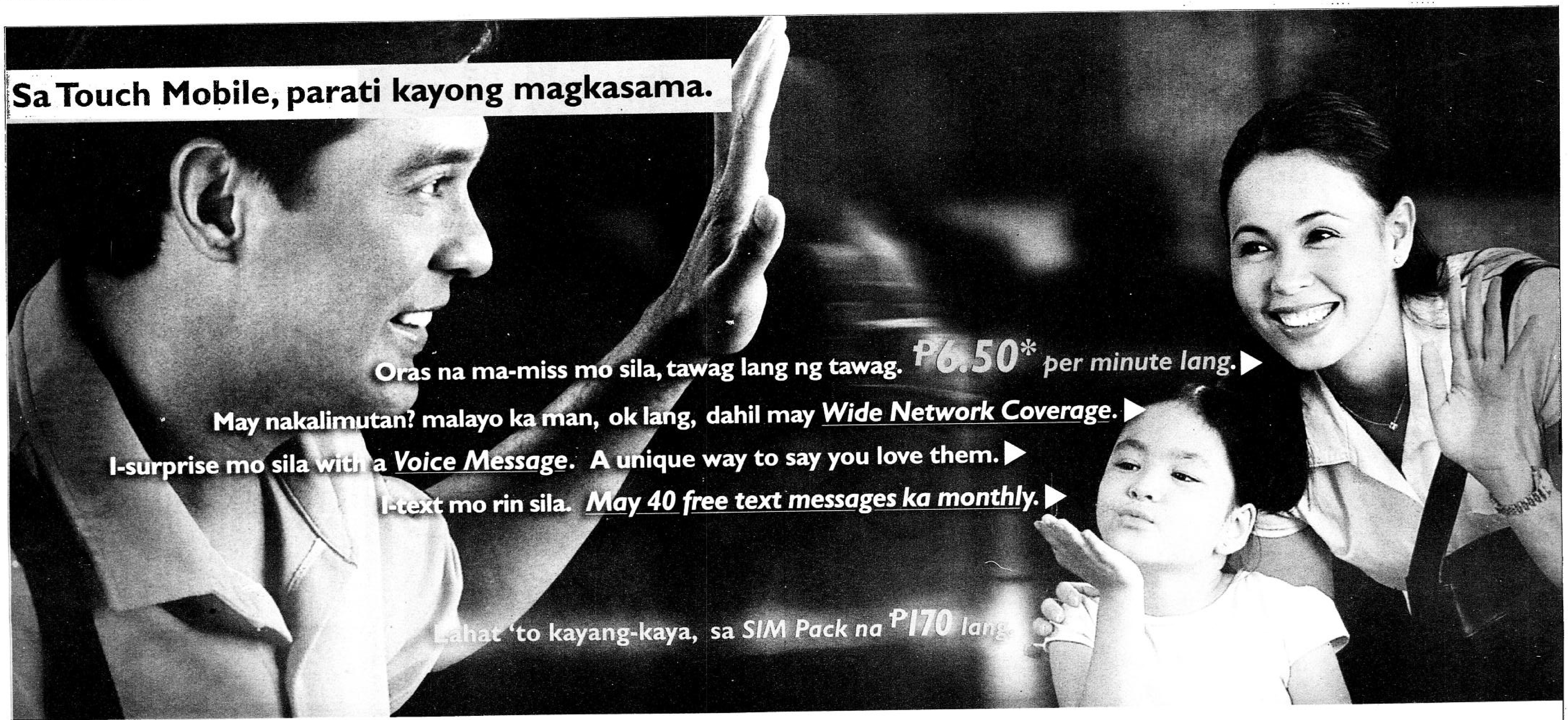

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Oy! Nasa EDSA
rin ako!

Junior Inquirer

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2002 ✦ 16 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 42

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

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Kiddie Power

By Maria Zobel Certeza

PEOPLE power. It was the time when people made their strength felt at the EDSA shrine. Here, the people sent their message to the government in a peaceful way through four days of rallies and vigils. The whole world now looks up to us Filipinos because of this momentous event.

As we all know, it was mostly grown-ups who were involved. But "5 and Up", a tele-magazine show for kids, covered the event and showed how the kids ruled in this big societal issue.

The Power of Kids

Reporters Oly Fernando, Kai De Veyra and Josh Matic met a new generation of heroes in the episode "People Power II-Ruled by Kids". The story showed how young Filipinos participated in the rallies on EDSA to oust the president. The host of the show also explained the history of the impeachment trial, and how the issue affected the country from a kid's point of view.

Being an excellent example of children's participation in media, their story won the United Nations Children's Fund special prize in the prestigious Prix Jeunesse Awards. It is like the Oscars of children's shows. In fact, the educational children's TV show Batibot was recognized as one of the best children's shows by this award-giving body in 1996.

The Right to Know

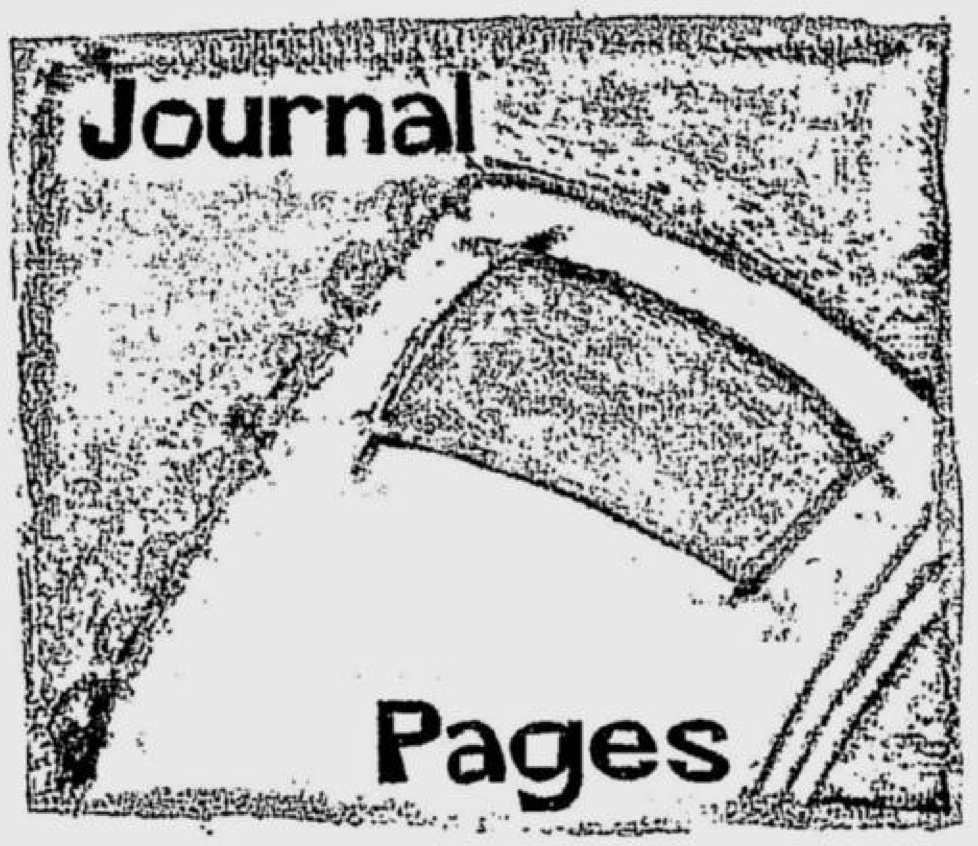
People from all walks of life like vendors, students and even professionals were the ones they saw during the coverage. "The children have

Kiddie/ p. 3

IN WINNING FORM. Josh and Kai covered People Power II which won the Prix Jeunesse Award for "5 and Up."

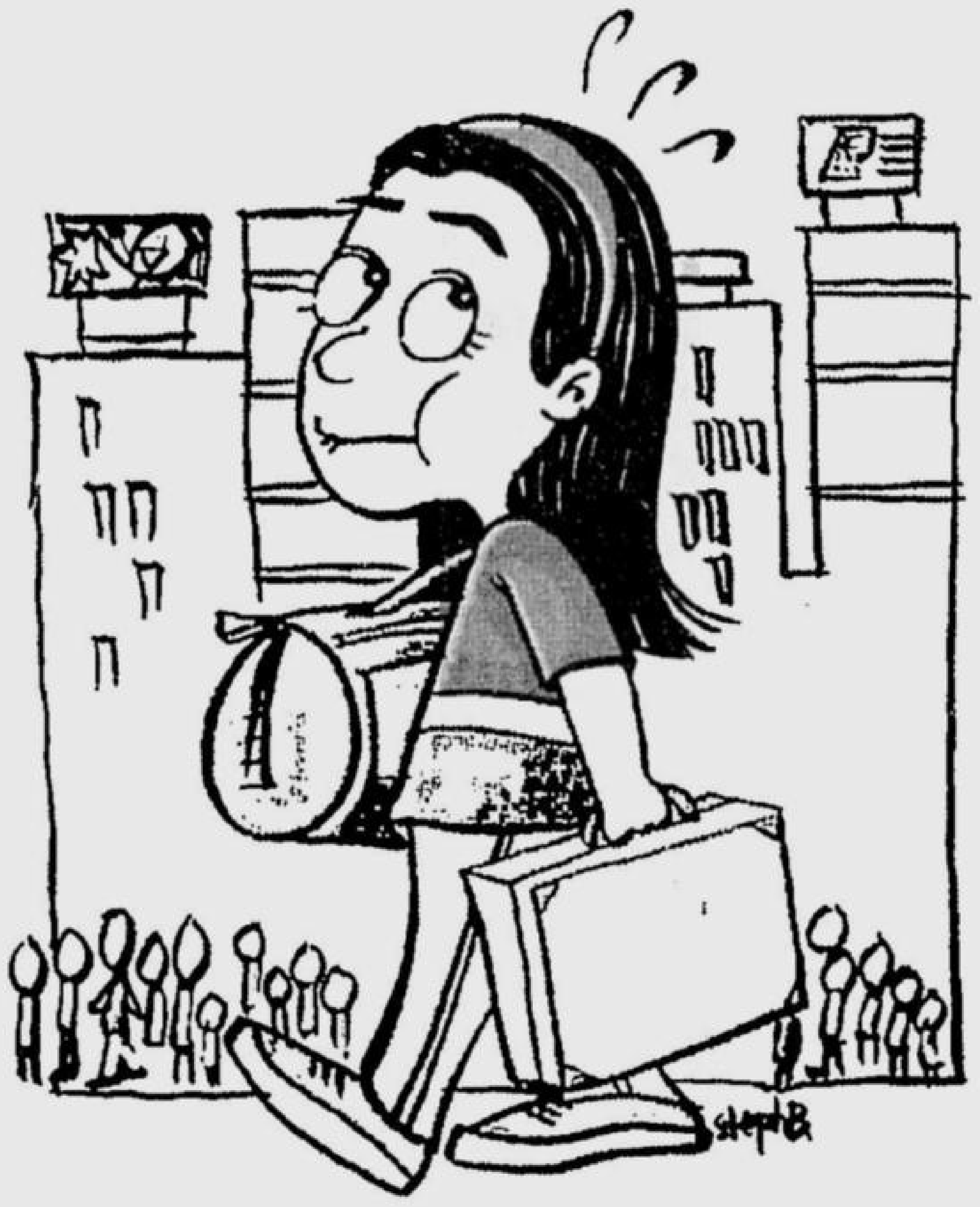
MIKE ALQUINTO

Journal Pages



Adjusting to a New Life

By Maria Solita Zaldivar
St. Theresa's College, Quezon City



I'M a freshman at St. Theresa's College having finished elementary at Aklan Learning Center in Kalibo, Aklan. I was born in Manila but grew up with my grandparents in that province in Western Visayas. It's a very quiet and peaceful place.

I am now studying in Manila and living with my mom, my first cousin, two titas and my yaya. And I will be spending Christmas and summer vacations in the province.

I am not sure if I can adjust here fast and well, but one thing I'm sure of is that it's not going to be easy.

My life in Aklan was simple. I woke up early for school and had classes until 12 noon. During my free time in the afternoon I watched TV, listened to the radio or talked with friends on the phone. I did my assignment before dinner and slept.

But now that I am here in Manila, it is different. I have an assigned household chore, I have to move fast and when school starts, I have to spend more time studying and less time on TV and on the phone.

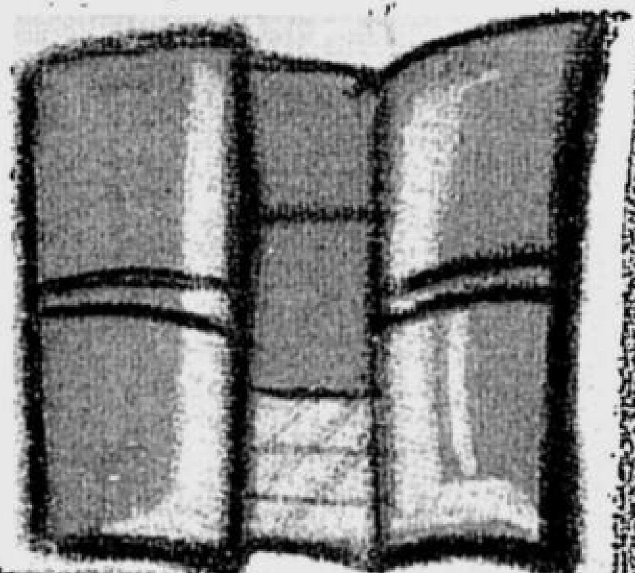
It's really hard to adjust to a new life especially when you are used to a life you've had for twelve years. But changes must happen sometimes. I guess it will take some time before I will be able to adjust completely but I hope that everything goes easy for me.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Finish those Anime Themes

HELLO JI! Nice magazine! I love it! Anyway, I read your "Straight from JI Readers" letter last June 15, 2002 titled "Annoyed Anime Fan", right? Well, I agree with Teresa Patricia Rentoy that most local TV channels don't complete the opening and ending themes. I hope that they change their minds and finish the opening and ending themes so that we will appreciate the shows better. —JAPY YAP, 15, Frisco, Quezon City

Annoyed at Mom

I'M about to turn 12 and I get a little annoyed at my mom because she doesn't let me see some shows at the Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network and Disney Channels. I tell her that there are good shows but she doesn't believe me. And when it comes to games like "Counterstrike", "Battle Realms" and "Max Payne" she complains that these games are "all about killing and shooting."—ANGELO PANOTES ARNALDO, 12, South Admiral, Parañaque City

Dear Angelo,

Mom knows best. After all, some things might not be good for you.—**The Editor**

Junior Inquirer

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Kiddie...

(from page 1)

a right to know," Kai emphasizes. "5 and Up" believes that the Filipino youth should be involved and has to have a voice.

The rally was on its third day when these three young journalists went to EDSA to interview some young rallyists.

"I interviewed a kid and asked why he was there and he said 'to make history'," Josh recalled. They both said that it was amazing how these kids were so willing to join the rally and make a difference.

"It was cool seeing the rich and the poor in one place and they all agreed on one thing," Josh said.

Meeting Joker

To give kids a better insight on what was really happening, the "5 and Up" reporters interviewed some people who were involved in the issue like Senator Joker Arroyo and Attorney Sigfrid Fortun. At first, the reporters thought that the interview with Senator Arroyo, the head council of the impeachment trial, would be boring. But it was not.

OLY with Atty. Fortun

"He was this jolly old man. He was always smiling during the interview," Kai said. The University of the Philippines Integrated School student remembered how Senator Arroyo answered each of their questions very comprehensively and in a kid's perspective. Oly interviewed Attorney Fortun. One of the most striking views the 16-year-old shared while interviewing Attorney Fortun was "Sir, good men don't necessarily make good presidents."

Kids...astig!

The reporters of the story believe that the episode was a wake-up call to kids to be more active and more socially concerned. Even though national issues are usually the realm of adults, kids can share their opinions on certain issues especially those that will affect their future. They have the power to change society and make the country better by being involved.

Sadly, "5 and Up" aired its closing episode last July 14. Even though the kids from the show bid us farewell, their program certainly made us proud of being Filipinos.

Kiddie/ p. 13

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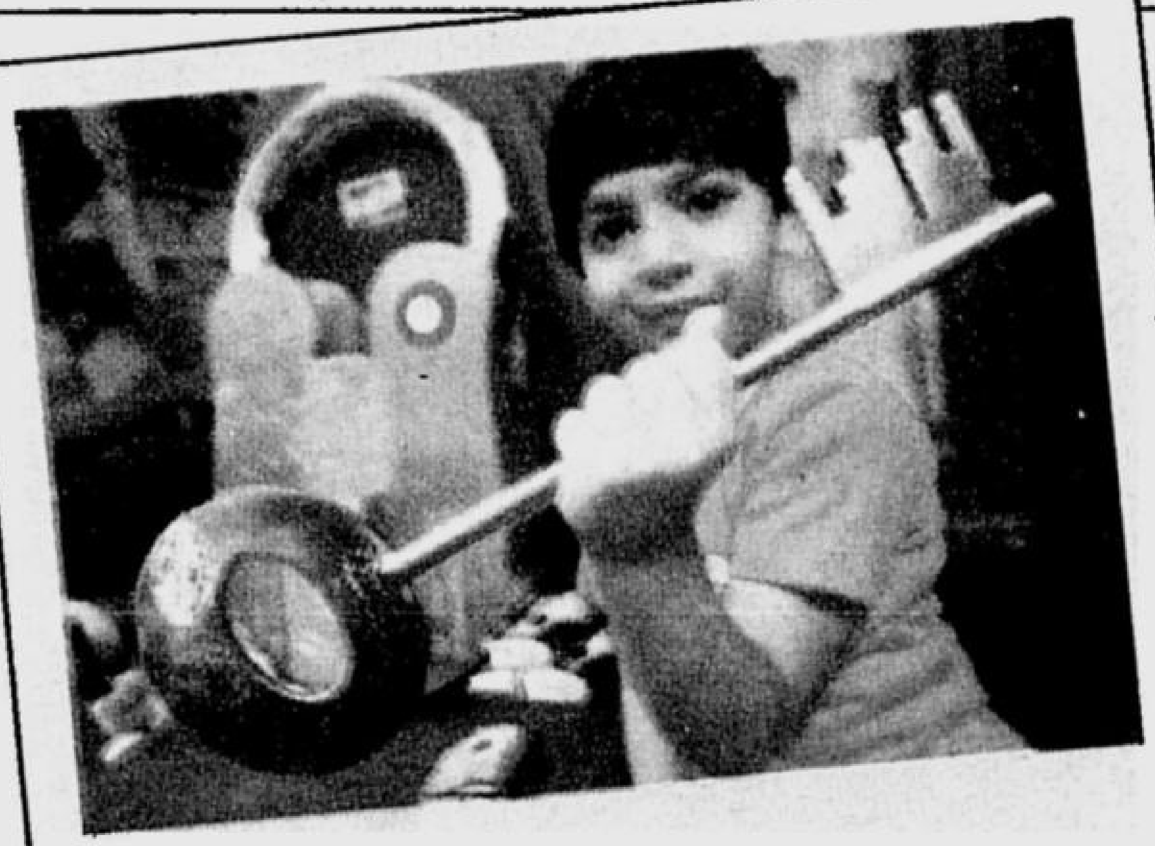
World Scope

Got milk?

THIS two-day-old male hippo is being bottle-fed because his mother refused to breastfeed him at the Dusit Zoo in Bangkok. Besides milk, the veterinary team also gave him medicine in an attempt to save the life of the 20-kilogram baby. *AP*

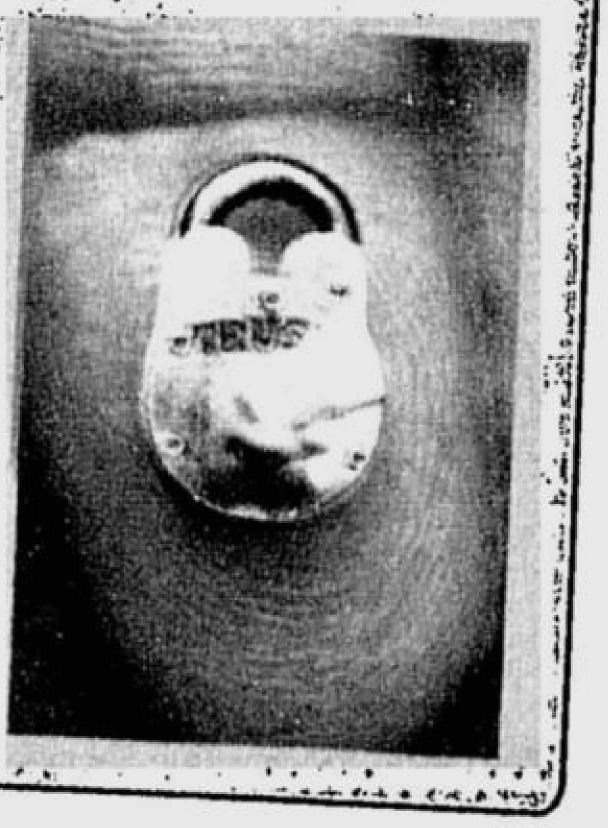


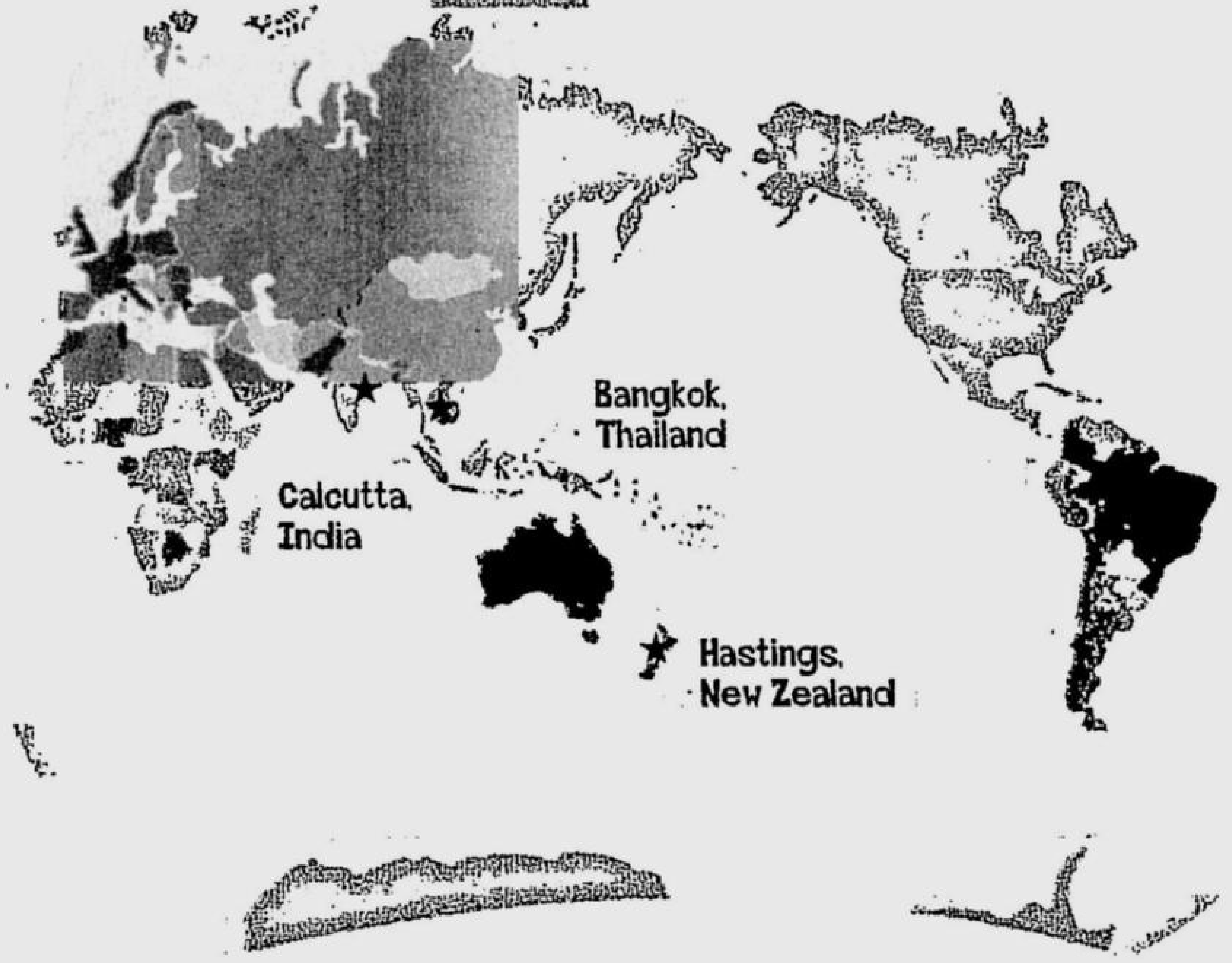
Big...

IT'S not the key to heaven but to the Hindu Temple of Puri (Orissa) in Calcutta, India. The 2-feet high handmade lock was ordered by the temple for its main gate. Made with brass and aluminum, it weighs in at 50 kilograms. *AFP*

...and Little

IT CAN probably keep burglars away from your doll's house. Claimed by its manufacturer to be the smallest in the world, this lock is made of silver and weighs only 5 grams. *AFP*





Making Air Waves

STRUMMING the air with his fingers, Toby Peneha, 28, won the New Zealand Air Guitar grand finals in Hastings imitating late guitar icon Jimi Hendrix. Peneha will compete at the Air Guitar World Championships in Oulu, Finland, in August. "I heard music and felt it and started moving my fingers. Maybe I'm just a born air guitarist," the meatpacking plant worker said. *Reuters*

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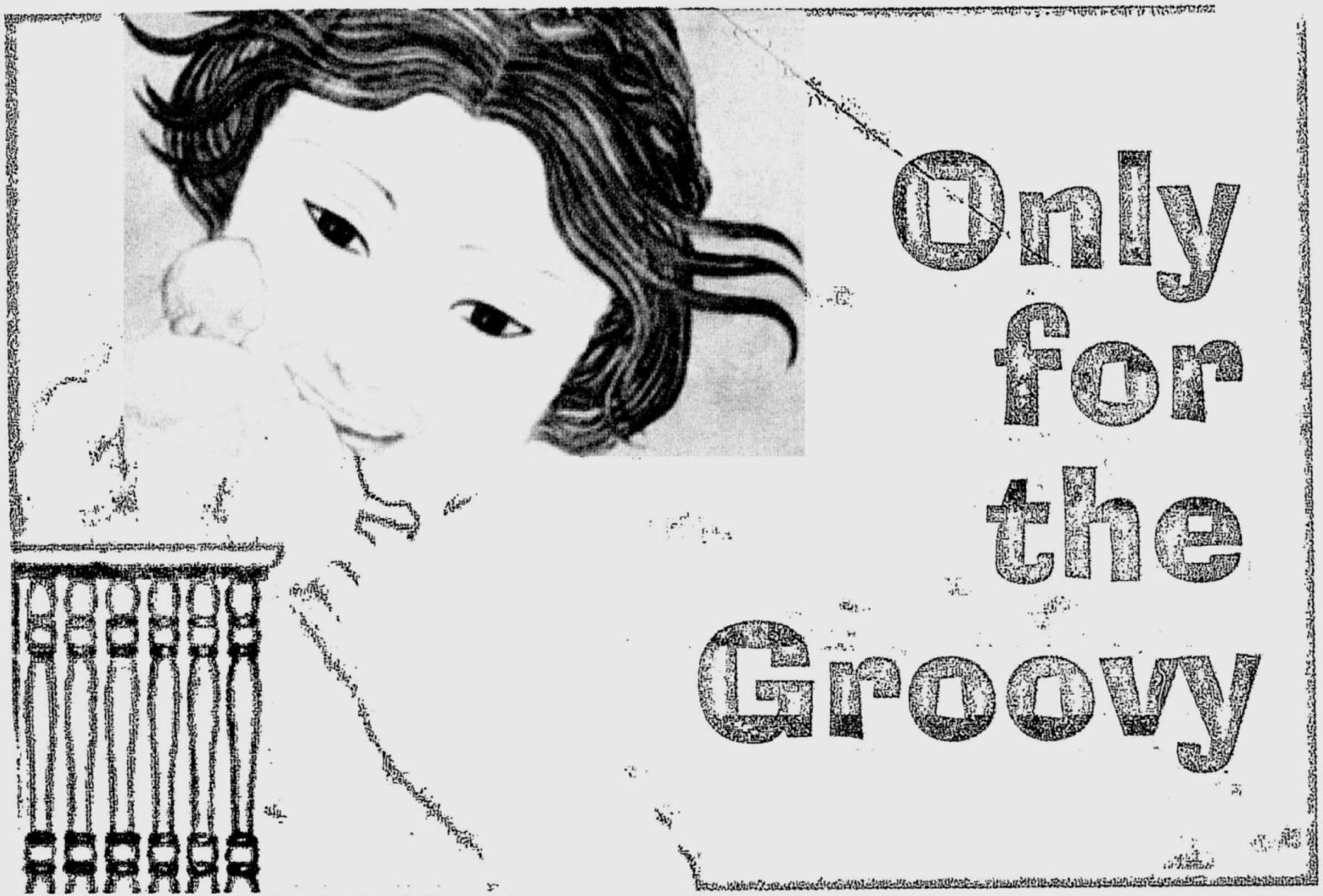


Only for the Groovy

ELLA'S mama is alive inside the dollhouse!

ROGER MARGALLO

By Eline Santos

GROOVY kids, check this out! Pop stories from National Artist Nick Joaquin are on exhibit at the Museo Pambata ng Maynila until July 31.

From "Lilit Bulilit and the Babe-in-the-Womb" to "Johnny Tiñoso and the Proud Beauty", ten books from 1979 are back for our reading pleasure.

Lilit Bulilit, Lilit Bulilit, she wears size 12 but she can't fill it. So goes the chant that follows one of Joaquin's unforgettable characters, illustrated by Lydia Ney .

The small and terrible Lilit Bulilit likes to eat (gasp!) babies in their mommies' wombs. She must have some *aswang* blood running through her veins! But she's going to meet her match...

Another must-read is "The Four Little Monkeys Who Went to Eden", illustrated by Jess Abrera.

In a quest for a cure for their father's ailment, four brother monkeys go in search of the banana fruit found in the garden of Eden. Along the way they have to overcome many hurdles, including fierce monkey-eating eagles.

Then there's Beauty and the Beast... with a twist. The girl supposed to free the 'beast' is so arrogant that things backfire. Can there still be a happy ending for Johnny Tiñoso and the Proud Beauty?

"The Amazing History of Elang Uling", illustrated by Leni Sarte-Gemil, seems like another Cinderella tale: After her stepmother takes over the house, Ella is reduced to being the family servant. Dirty from the day's work and sleeping among the pots and pans, she is teased as Elang Uling by her wicked stepsisters.

But the story is infused with rich Pinoy flavor. Elang Uling has a doll-sized replica of their house. It's no ordinary dollhouse however... Ella's beloved Mama comes to life inside it!

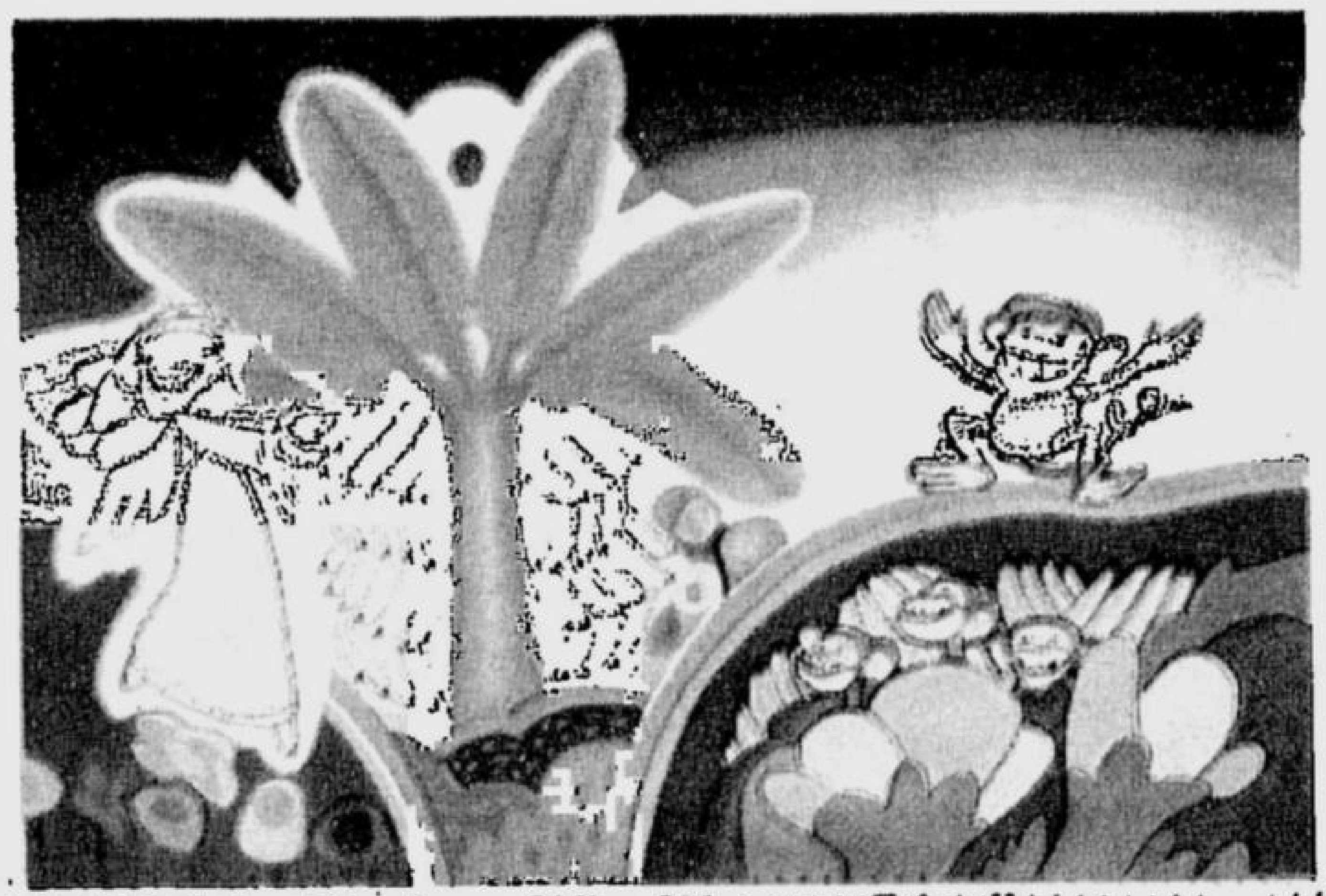
Willy and Doreen's Gift to Kids

The original art for these great reads were donated by the late Doreen Fernandez to Museo Pambata. Other stories completing the collection are "The Adventures of Culas Culasito", "The Hamiling Mystery", "Going to Jerusalem", "Sarimanok versus Ibong Adarna", "The Happiest Boy in the World", and "How Love Came to Juan Tamad."

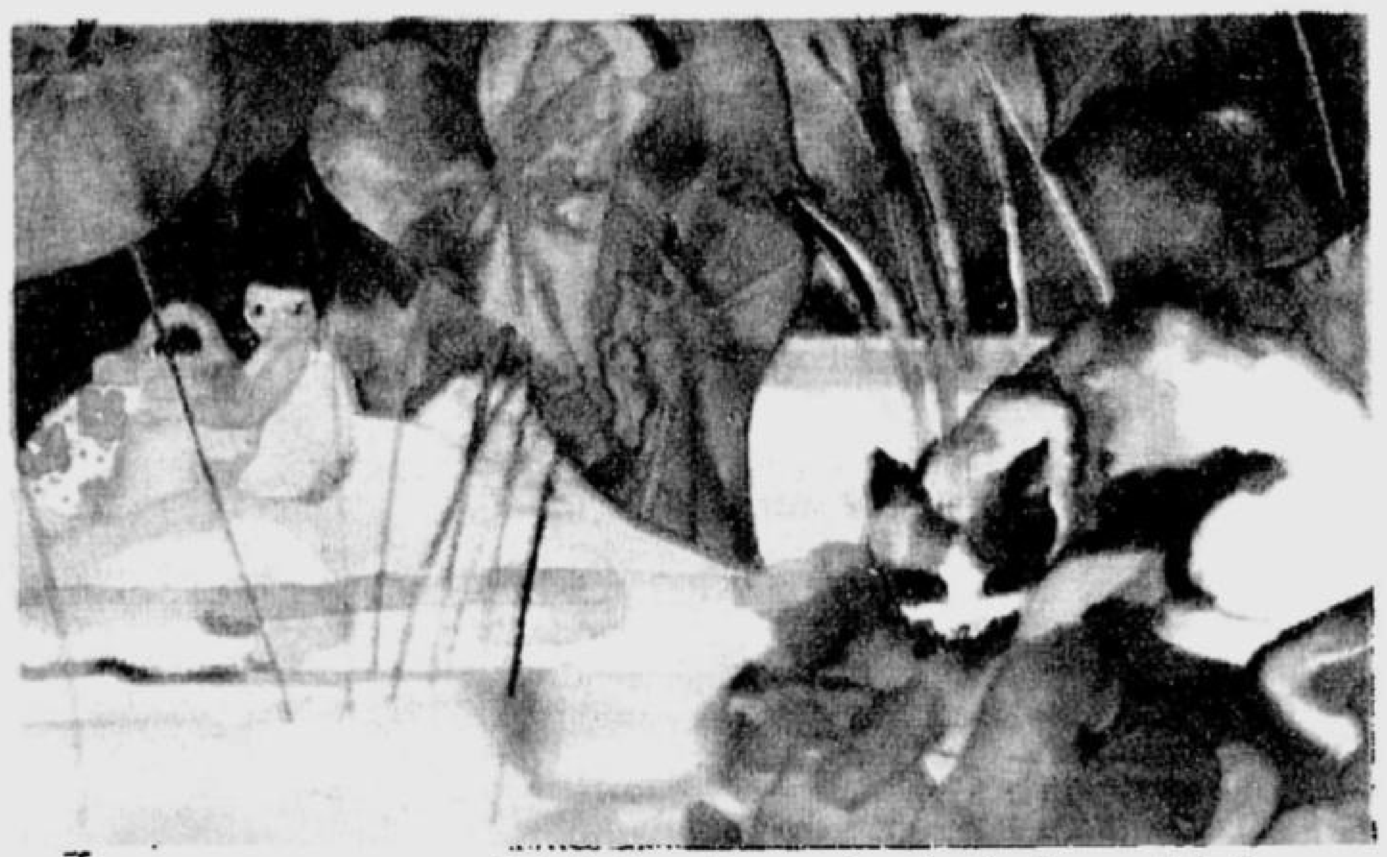
Eugenia Apostol, founding chairman of PDI, relates that Nick Joaquin wrote these ten stories for Mr. and Ms in 1978. She then commissioned the illustrations in 1979, the International Year of the Child.

"Willy Fernandez saw these illustrations and asked to buy them. And he bought all the illustrations which he kept in their house," she says.

"Doreen was looking for a place to donate them. I was very excited to hear about it. I was surprised they remembered they even had this."



"THE Four Monkeys Who Went to Eden" ROGER MARGALLO



LILIT Bulilit wears high heels and a hairdo as high as herself, but she's still small...and terrible. ROGER MARGALLO

OUT THERE

By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Announcement

ROBOTICS OLYMPIAD. The Philippine Robotics Olympiad Preliminary Judging has been reset to September 6, 2002 at Riverbanks Mall, Marikina City. However, the original schedule—August 2—will be a dry run for all competing teams to be held at the Philippine Science Centrum, University of the Philippines-Manila Compound, Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila. For more details please call Ms Sionie Hayrosa at 536-3092 or 525-8752.

Workshop

ESCUELA SA MUSEO. Check out Ayala Museum's lineup of workshops in August. For adults—Beginner's Oil Painting, August 2 to September 20, Fridays, 6-9 p.m.; Jewelry Making, August 7 to 28, Wednesdays, 2-5 p.m.; Portraiture, August 10 to September 28, Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; and Decorative Arts, September 4 to 25, Wednesdays, 2-5 p.m. Kids ages 2-6 can join Play Art for Toddlers, August 21 to September 21, Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For inquiries and registration, please call Christy Monastrial at 810-8407 or email inquiries@ayalamuseum.com.

Contests

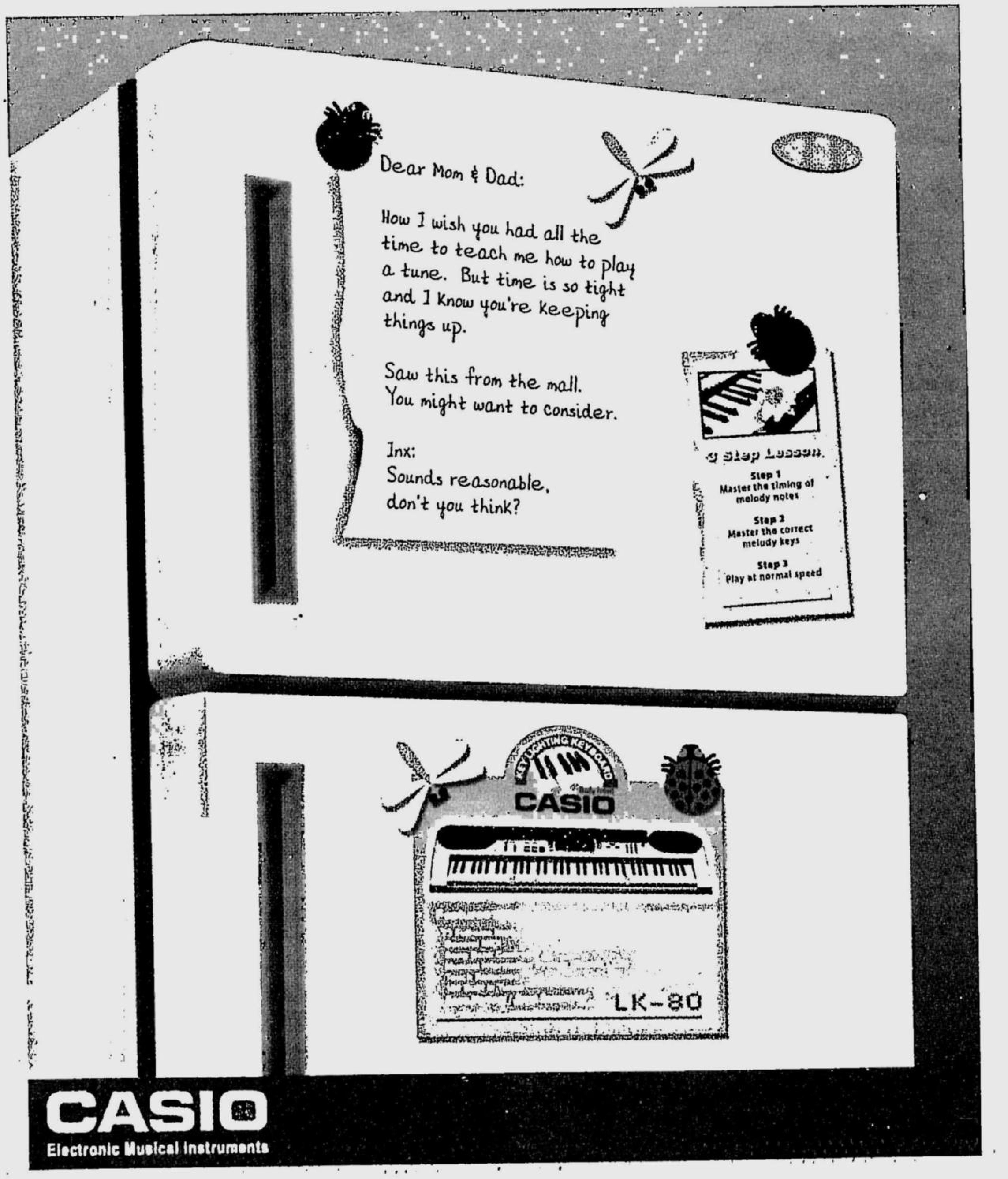
COLORING TILT. SNACK (Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids), together with Precious Pages, Corp., publishers of "Easy to Learn" books recently conducted the "SNACK-Precious On-the-Spot Coloring Contest" at the Museo Pambata. Twenty kids ages 7-11 from San Andreas Bukid joined in on the fun and showed their creativitiy in coloring. The next SNACK-Precious coloring tilt will be held for preschoolers of St. John's Academy in San Juan, Mandaluyong City. For inquiries please call 724-1762.

EXCELLENT KIDS. Calling all kids with exceptional leadership qualities, outstanding work in the arts, or terrific athletic ability and good sportsmanship—the Mayor of Townsville and the Metro Manila Mayors' League want you for Cartoon Network's "Mayors' Awards of Excellence"! Awards for excellence in **leadership, the arts and athletics** will go to 6 boys and girls, ages 10-16, from Metro Manila. Nominations can be made by any established government agency, school, non-government organization, social, religious and other civic groups. Barangay officials and prominent residents of the town or city where the nominee lives can also field in their choices. Nomination forms are available from mayors' offices, selected Jollibee and Toytown outlets, and Perceptions, Inc. located at 3/F Fortune Office Bldg., 160 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati. Submit entries to the office of your mayor on or before August 30, 2002. For inquiries please call Perceptions at 891-3556, 891-3485 or 891-3396.

Events

FAMILY DAY. Big & Small Co., a clothing store for kids, invites all families to join its fun day at the Manila Polo Club on August 4. The day will be dedicated to families for an afternoon of fun and

Out There/ p. 11



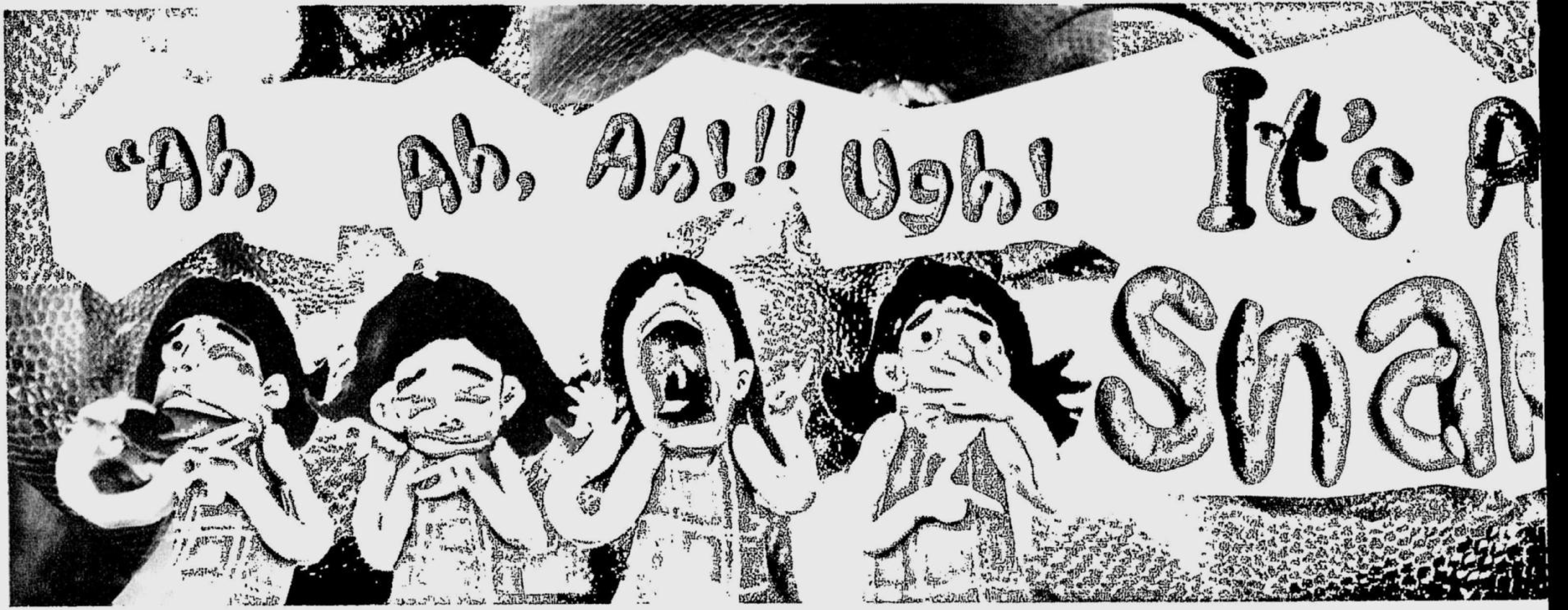
Dear Mom & Dad:

How I wish you had all the time to teach me how to play a tune. But time is so tight and I know you're keeping things up.

Saw this from the mall.
You might want to consider.

Inx:
Sounds reasonable, don't you think?

CASIO
Electronic Musical Instruments



KIDS

Story by
Anna Elvira S. Arcellana

Art by
Jomike Tejido

"LET ME GO! Let me go!" I screamed at teacher who was trying to pull me toward that slimy, yucky, ugly, scary, poisonous, harmful, the-list-goes-on-and-on creature.

That slimy, yucky, scary...blah, blah, blah creature had caught the fascination of my classmates and they were petting the absolutely rotten animal (read: snake) as if it were their pet dog or cat!

All of my classmates were so excited to pet it they could hardly wait for their turn. And when it was my turn to "touch" the snake, I was dumbfounded, disgusted and outraged. But most of all, I was SCARED.

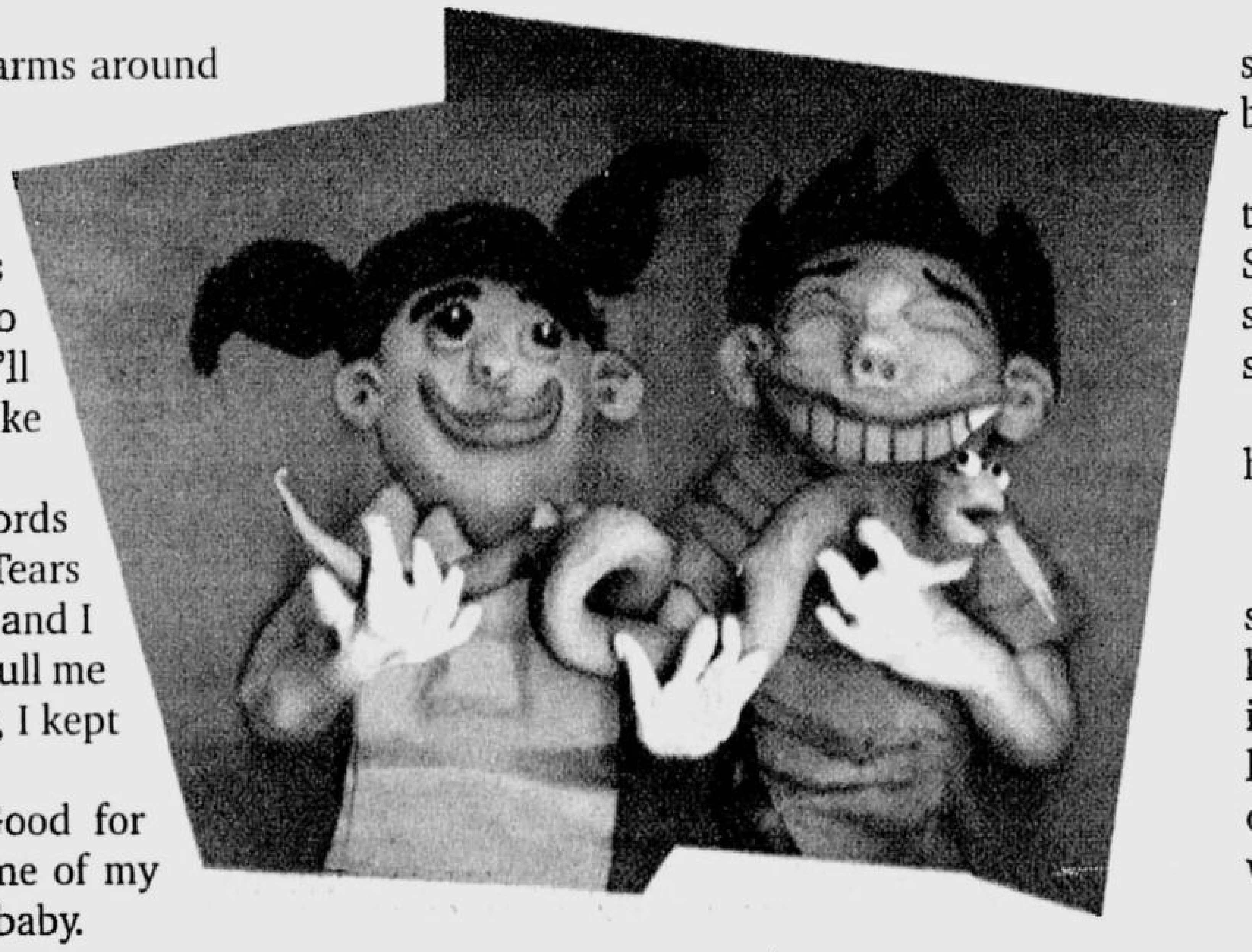
I did the only thing I could. I ran. Even as I made my escape, I kept turning back every second to see if the animal was chasing me, biting me, and spreading poison all over my body—Ugh! I didn't even want to think about it.

Then something caught my arm. I screamed. Now, I was scared of two things: The snake and having screamed at the teacher.

But Ma'am just put her arms around my shoulder and told me, "Anna, it's not going to kill you. Look at your classmates. Nothing bad has happened to them. Now, go pet the snake. At least you'll know how touching a snake feels."

But her consoling words weren't effective at all. Tears streamed down my cheeks and I kept crying as she tried to pull me back to the class. Or rather, I kept screaming and crying.

Finally, she gave up. Good for her, but better for me. Some of my classmates called me a crybaby.



"I glanced at Ate Talya. She was in her pajamas, not in snake's skin outfits...She was just Ate Talya, not the "Snakey Queen."

I was still shivering when I went bac
initely my first and worst field trip e
you-name-it-all creature!

And that was just one part of my
nursery experience was nothing com
to share with you next.

YEAR 1997. I never knew that it w
the townhouse that my tito owned. A
gelo and I were checking out the int
landscape, and the proposed rooms
half-constructed townhouse when m
ter saw a large can placed beside the
door.

"Tito, what's inside?" she asked.

"Oh, those are the baby snakes th
he replied.

I trembled and backed a few ste
shone with mischief. He went to the
baby snakes.

The next thing happened so fast.
the baby snakes fell out. I jumped. I s
Soon, I was crying on my sister's sho
she said, "Oh, please, Anna. It's just
snakes."

Nevertheless, my sister started w
home. I didn't speak to Angelo for tw

"TA-DAH! Surprise!" Ate Talya excl
she burst into the dining room wh
having my afternoon snack of milk a
ies. I gasped when I turned to look a
looked as if she were a model of SM's
of fashion collection-snake's skin ou
was wearing a cowboy hat, a dark br

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to the bus. It was def-
ver! All because of that

"Snakey Legacy". That
ared to what I'm going

ould be my last visit to
e Talya, my cousin An-
rior, the
of the
y sis-
front

t the workers caught,"

s away. Angelo's eyes
can and examined the

He kicked the can and
creamed.
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imed, as
re I was
nd cook-
her. She
new line
fits. She
wn jack-

et, very tight black pants, green high-heeled boots all made of snake's skin. And oh, who could miss out her multi-colored handbag that was also made of snake's skin.

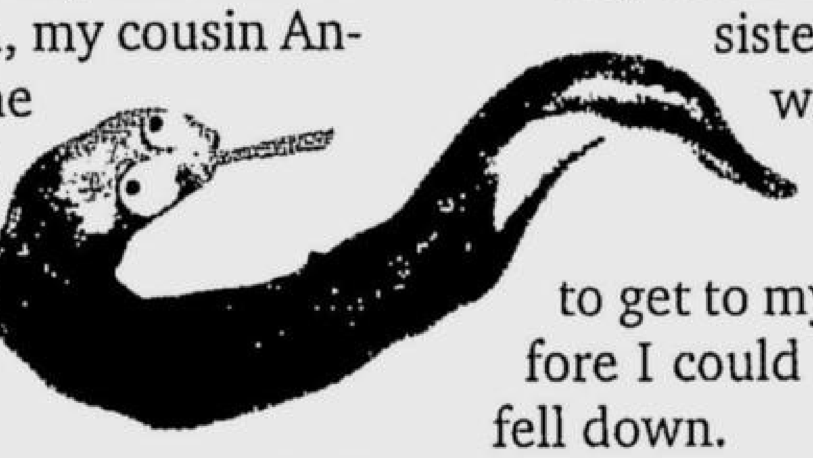
"What's got into your head? Are you trying to earn the title for "Weirdest Girl in Town?" I asked, my eyebrows raised. Ate Talya simply laughed at my comment. "Here comes the lovely Talya, Philippines' coolest and funkiest trendsetter," she said as she struck a pose. "Is this your so-called surprise?" I asked. Things were getting weirder and weirder.

"Well, not really. Let's just say, it was just part of my surprise. See this box?" she told me, pointing to the box beside her. I haven't noticed that before.

"It contains my new indulgence." Before I could say anything, she pulled out a green, slimy, yucky, ugly, scary creature from the box...a PYTHON!!!

I screamed. I shook with fear. I was expecting my sister to put that python back in the box and throw it as far as possible from our house, but she didn't. Instead, she wrapped the python around her neck and pulled out three more "I-don't-know-and-I-don't-care" snakes from the box." This is so fascinating! It's a good thing I went into snake breeding!" she cried out, as if it were the greatest thing in the world. Soon, there were ten boxes in the dining room and SNAKES of different breeds were crawling all over the place. I didn't stop screaming and crying. There were a lot of questions I wanted to ask my sister but I just couldn't. I was at a loss for words. My heart was pounding so hard; I felt I was going to die of a heart attack any minute.

"Oh, don't cry, sis! They're great creatures!" my sister said sarcastically, kissing the python wrapped around her neck.

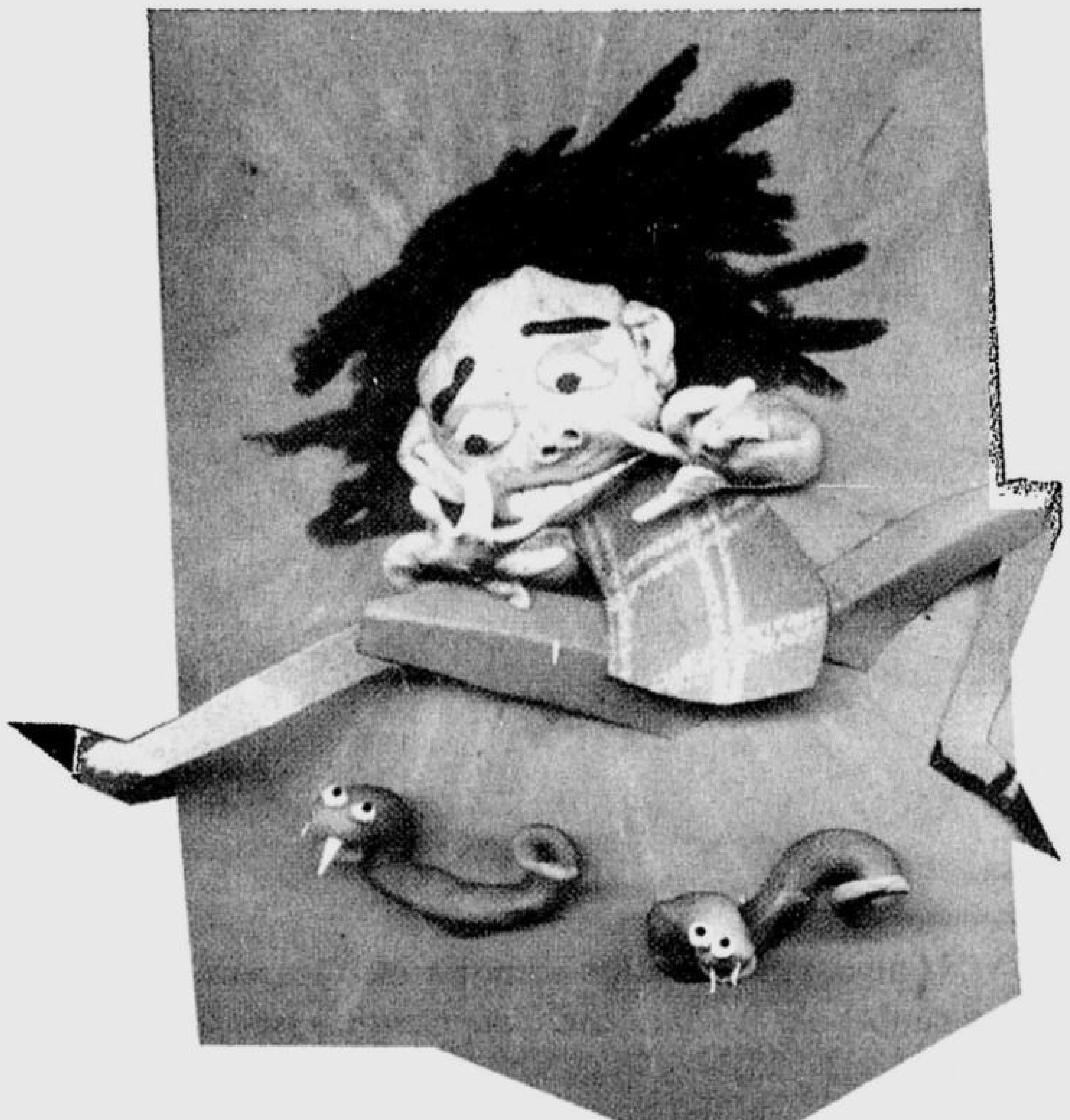


"Ugh!" I screamed as I tried to escape from "the-hell-in-the-dining-room". I couldn't wait to get to my room, and if possible, stay forever there. Before I could even run, three snakes caught my feet and I fell down.

"Ah! Ah! Help!!!"

But Ate Talya didn't budge. She just stood there, where she kept kissing the python and said, "Oh, they're such great creatures. I think I want to be the "Snakey Queen."

"Ah! Ah! Ugh!"



About ten snakes were wrapping themselves around my body. My heart was pounding harder than ever. My body was stiff in horror; I could hardly blink my eyes. The pressure was getting harder and I couldn't breathe...

"ANNA! Anna!" It took a lot of effort to open my eyes and all I knew was that I was face to face with Ate Talya who had a frantic expression on her face.

"*Hoy! Binabangungot ka yata,*" she told me as she gave a sigh of relief when she saw that I was already awake. I looked around. Everything was in its normal state. My room was my room. No snakes. My blanket was wrapped so tightly around my body. And boy! Was I sweating! Then I glanced at Ate Talya. She was in her pajamas, not in snake's skin outfits, no python wrapped around her neck. She was just Ate Talya, not the "Snakey Queen."

I hugged her and told her, "I'm so glad you're just Ate Talya and not the Snakey Queen. I knew that you would always be there for me. I love you."

She just raised her eyebrows, not knowing what I was talking about. But my heart was leaping with joy. I was not in the "hell-in-the-dining-room." I was safe, comfortable and happy in my "home sweet home." Free from snakes.

***Anna**, 13, is one of JI's school correspondents. She likes writing, playing the piano and is a high school freshman at Miriam College in Quezon City. She is still scared of snakes.*

***Jomike** is taking up Architecture at the University of Sto. Tomas in Manila. He is the creator of the comic strip "Mikrokosmos."*

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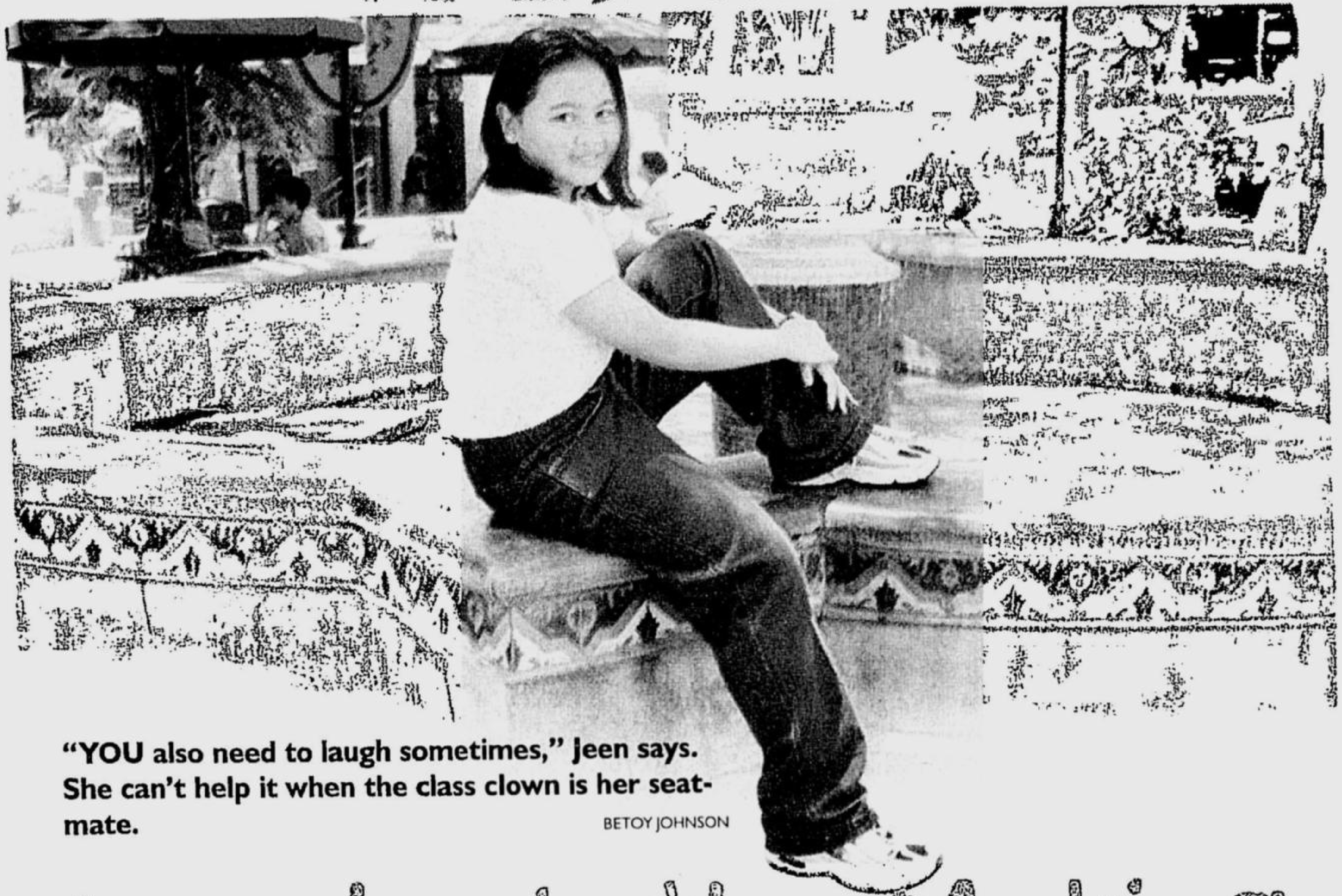


"YOU also need to laugh sometimes," Jeen says. She can't help it when the class clown is her seatmate. BETOY JOHNSON

Leader in the Making

This girl's confident smile and can-do attitude shines through victory and defeat

By Eline Santos

SHE ran as treasurer for their student council last year and lost. But 12-year-old Jeen Beatrice R. Sta. Ana recalled her parents words: "Strive harder. *Ok lang 'yan. Kaya mo 'yan.*"

Keeping these words of encouragement in mind, Jeen faces the world with confidence and a bright smile.

"I think I deserve to be a terrific kid because of my accomplishments," she beams.

Jeen was a spelling bee champion in her school. She was also vice president of her class last year. Part of her responsibility was to help supervise their class of 43 kids. Together with the class president, they listed those who behaved and didn't quite behave while the teacher was away.

"Sometimes I was already shouting but nobody was listening," she describes the challenge of being in charge by herself.

Her resolution for this school year is to strive harder and aim to have honors. Last year, Jean was among the top ten students.

In Manresa School, Jeen says they have five "responsible teams" that take care of various chores around the classroom. RT1 fixes the chairs and tables, RT2 sweeps the floor, RT3 collects quizzes, RT4 takes care of troop movements and RT5 assists teachers.

Sometimes she declines the leader role "to give others a chance," she says. But she continues to be chosen by her peers.

For example, Jeen was the secretary of their club, the Little Librarian. "They teach us the Dewey Decimal Classification system. We help stamp, type cards and cover books."

This year, Jeen is planning to join the art club. "I want to experience different clubs," she says.

This desire for experience is also partly why she wants to be part of the student council. "*Gusto ko po 'yung* experience. Leadership. *Makatulong sa* school."

The school is not the only one she wants to help. "When I grow up, I'm going to have a house built. That's where we will all live, with my parents and siblings."

She hasn't decided on a college course yet but is presently inclined towards fine arts or interior design.

Her hopes for the future include, "To make the world better. World peace. *Maayos na gobyerno*," says Jeen.

Sounds like a good leader today...and maybe an even better one in the future.

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: ______________________

Age: ______________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at ______________________

and studies at ______________________

Her/his contact number is: ______________________

Sender's Name: ______________________

Sender's Age & School: ______________________

Sender's Address: ______________________

Sender's Contact No.: ______________________

KEY LIGHTING KEYBOARD
Only from CASIO

Out There

(from page 7)

bonding, with food booths, games and activities for children, and a fashion show. Each ticket, which costs P500 per person, will help the Hematology-Oncology Unit for Service and Education or H.O.U.S.E. of the Makati Medical Center. For more info or for any donation please contact Big & Small Co. at 813-7928 or email bigandsmall@pacific.net.ph.

BE W.I.T.C.H.ED! W.I.T.C.H., the newest fantasy comic book-magazine, is now out to delight comic book enthusiasts with its July-August premiere issue. Follow the magical adventures of W.I.T.C.H.—Will, Irma, Taranee, Cornelia and Hay Lin—five extraordinary girls destined to save the world from evil forces. Know more about W.I.T.C.H and their magical powers, plus enjoy magic shows and freebies, at the W.I.T.C.H. bookstore tour in the following malls: National Bookstore-Glorietta, Makati City, July 27; National Bookstore-Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, July 28; Powerbooks-Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City, August 3; and Powerbooks-Megamall, Mandaluyong City, August 4. W.I.T.C.H. is published by Summit Media under the license of Disney Enterprises. For subscription inquiries, please call 635-9728 for Metro Manila and (032) 412-5566 to 67/(082) 221-6226 to 67 for Visayas and Mindanao.

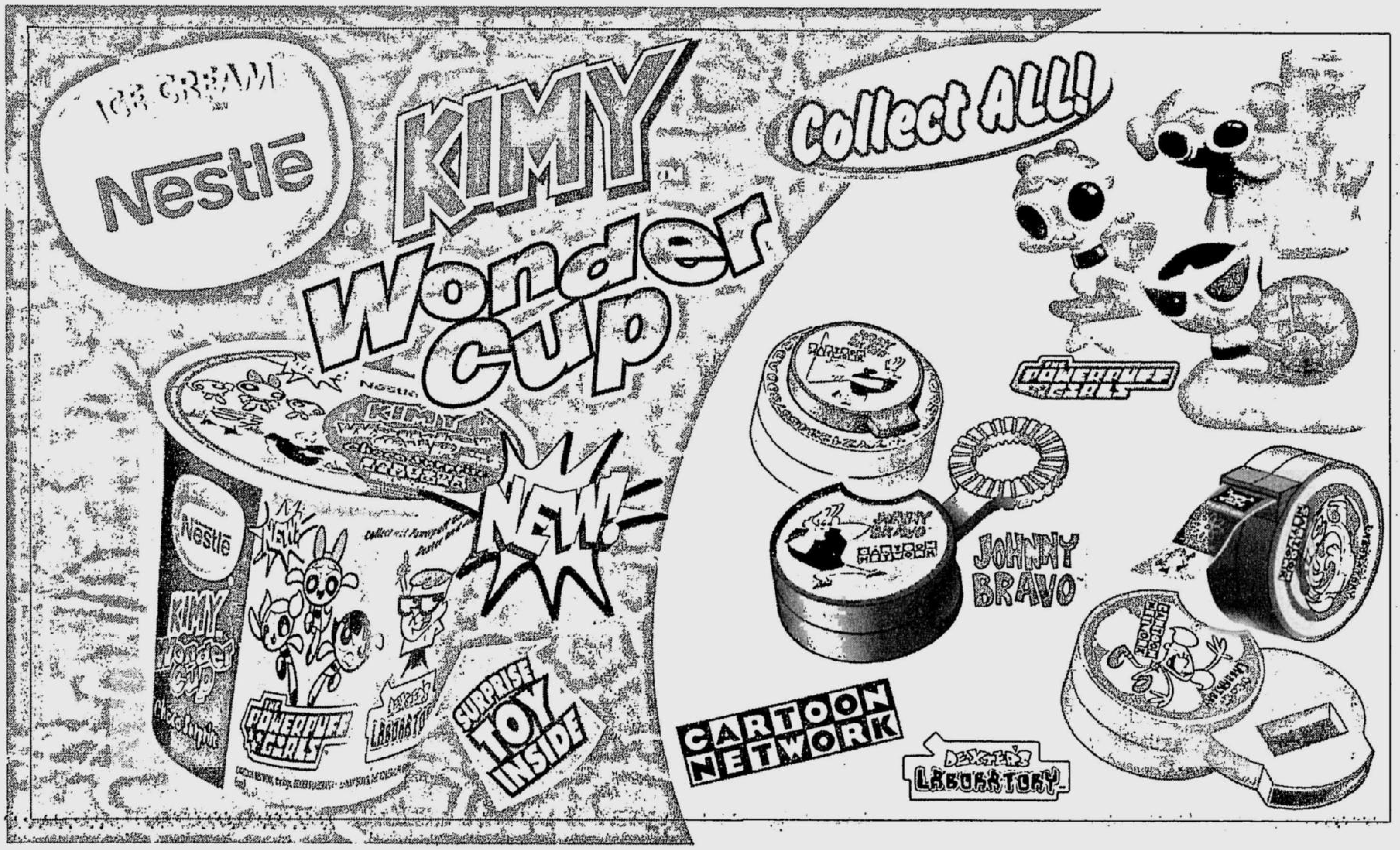
Play

NARNIA ADVENTURE. Trumpets embarks on another adventure this year with the much-anticipated return to the Land Behind the Wardrobe Door in "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe"! Join Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy as they once again explore the enchanted land of Narnia. Each ticket you buy for the August 3 (Saturday) 8 p.m. show will help the pediatric asthma charity patients of the Philippine General Hospital. Enjoy a fascinating play and help one child breathe easier. For more details, please contact Julie at 0917-8995857. Tickets will be delivered for free!

Cable Picks

CHIMPS. Join Hayden Turner as he explores the lives of three chimp brothers—Buddy, Sonny and Mr. Muggins—in "A Tale of Three Chimps" on August 1, 9 p.m., on National Geographic Channel. On August 2, witness a chimp community living freely in the world's largest chimpanzee sanctuary in "Chimps on the Move", showing at 9 p.m. on National Geographic Channel.

TRIPLE TREAT. Kids can enjoy three hours of wacky cartoons every Saturday morning on Cartoon Network with "Cartoon Cartoons-Triple Up". For four consecutive Saturdays beginning July 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., kids get to enjoy "Johnny Bravo", "Cow and Chicken", "Mike, Lu and Og" and "I am Weasel". Don't miss them!



Kythespian

If cancer + kythe = fun, then adding a theater actor to the equation equals fun with Kuya Billy

By Eline Santos

"MY mom is a survivor," says Billy Parjan, a 32-year-old actor from Gantimpala Theater Foundation. His mother Myrna was treated for ovary cancer in 1982 and breast cancer two years later.

Today Billy is one of the many cool adults who volunteer at Kythe Inc., a group formed in 1992 by Icar Castro and Girlie Garcia that aims to address the psychosocial needs of pediatric cancer patients and their families.

"I go to Kythe three or two times a week," says Billy. He visits the Tumor Clinic of the East Avenue Medical Center to tell the kids stories and play with them.

The word *kythe* comes from a Scottish word which means healing through simple sharing and togetherness. So that's what Kythe volunteers do: spend time together with the children.

"I pray first before I go to Kythe," he says. He asks God to help him say the right things. "You have to be tactful with patients and their families."

"You don't necessarily focus on the patient alone." Billy says the siblings of a patient need to be reminded that "our caring for them and their parents is still there." It just so happened that their brother or sister has special needs.

"Empower them," he advises. He would invite the parents and siblings to pray together. "We prayed a lot," he recalls how his family also got strength through prayer.

Before Kythe, Billy regularly helped in theater workshops for kids during summer vacation. When he decided to do something different this year, Kuya Bodjie suggested Kythe. It can be emotionally draining. "Attached *ako sa mga bata*," Billy says.

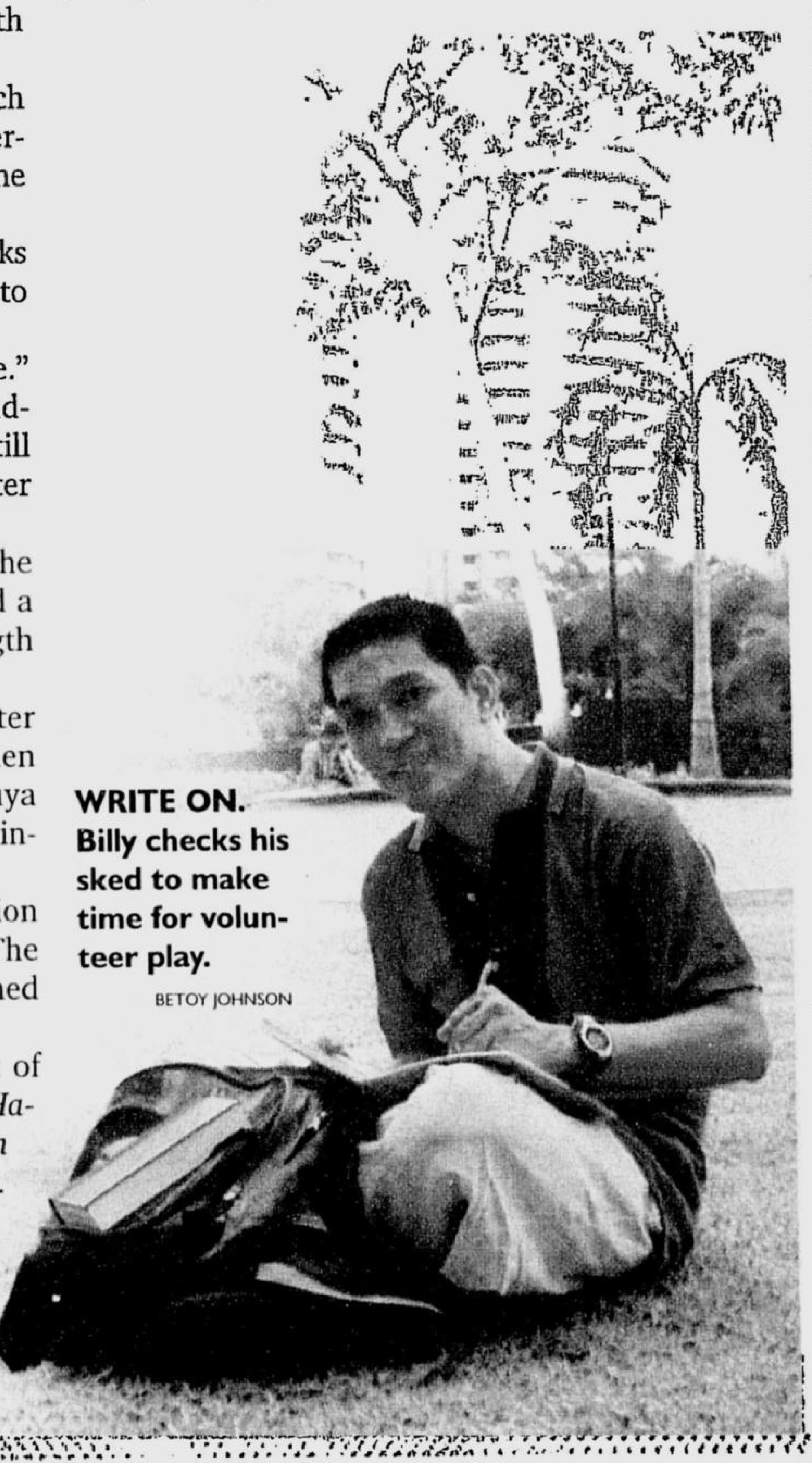
Even as a facilitator, he suffers from separation anxiety when the theater workshop ends. "The longest was two months. *Parang may* unexplained feeling of sadness."

So how does he handle the emotional aspect of being a Kythe volunteer? "I try to psyche myself. *Haharapin ko kung ano man ang sitwasyon na nandun. Akala ko prepared na ko. Hindi pa pala.*"

After every session with a patient, Billy explains that Kythe asks them how they are. "'How do you feel today meeting with a kid? *Kaya mo pa ba?' Nakakatulong sa* volunteer," he says. He also relies on his friends. "I went out with friends, we watched 'I am Sam'. I cried. *Para sa kin* therapeutic *'yon.*"

The common trait needed for theater and Kythe, according to Billy, is empathy. In theater, "you put yourself in the shoes of the character you are playing." Similarly, in Kythe, "You put yourself in the situation of the patient and their family," which he says is easy for him because "I've been there."

Being a survivor himself, Billy helps give hope to young cancer patients and their families.



WRITE ON. Billy checks his sked to make time for volunteer play.

BETOY JOHNSON

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ______________.
He/She is ________ years old and
is my _________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________.

My nominee lives at__________
________________________.
Give him/her a call at ________
or send him/her an e-mail at ____
________________________.
By the way, I'm ___________
________________________.
I'm__________years old.
My address is_____________
________________________.
You may call me at__________
________________________.

Kiddie Power

(from page 3)

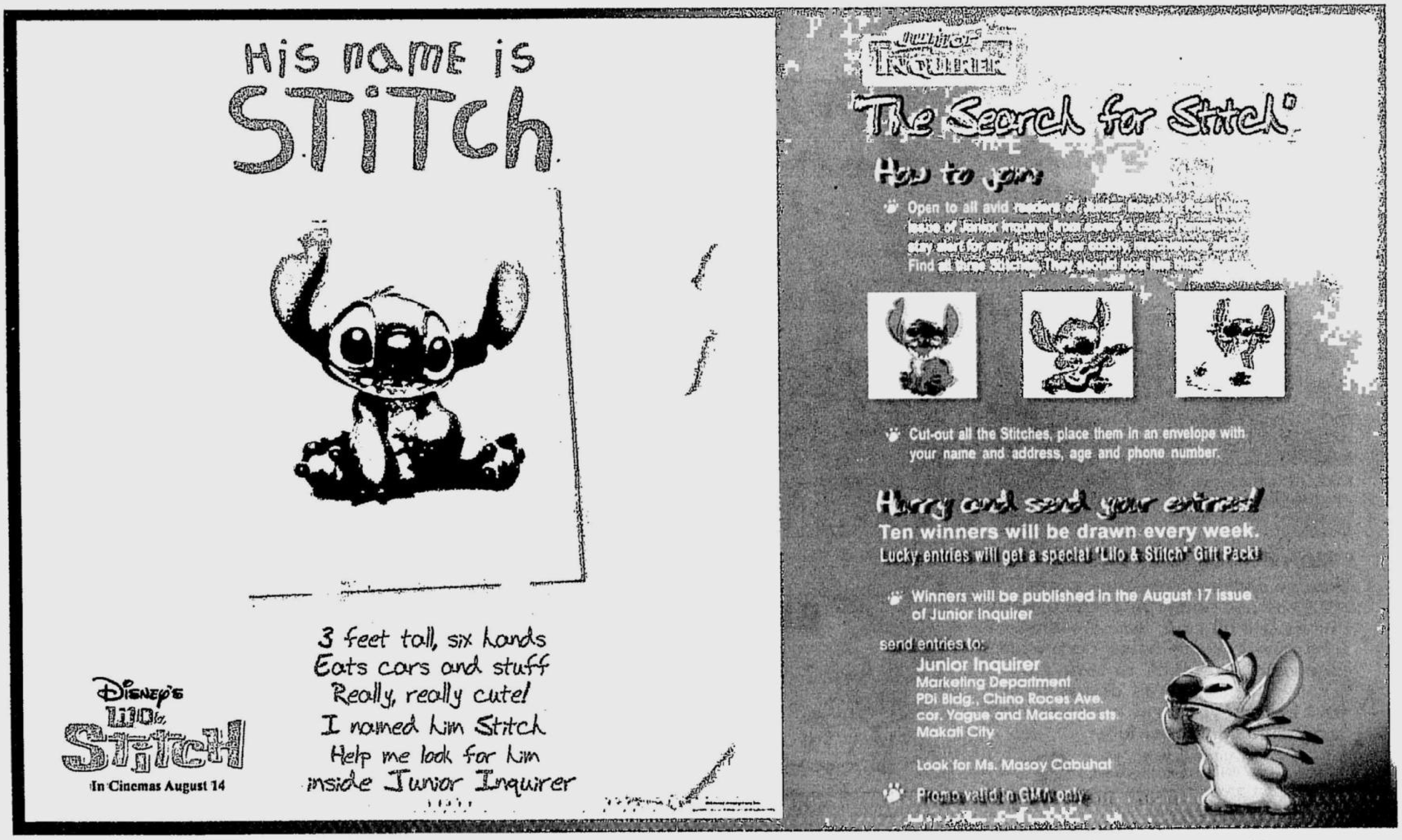
IN April 1992, a junior version of "The Probe Team" called "5 & Up" premiered on ABC-5, then moved to its current carrier, GMA-7. "5 & Up" adopted the magazine format of its model, but incorporated playful elements like animation, musical numbers and skits. "5 & Up's" initial telecast reached finalist status in the 1992 Prix Jeunesse, a children's television competition held in Munich, Germany. Its opening billboard was conferred the World Gold Medal, and the show itself, finalist status in the 1996 New York Festival for Television and Film. It has also received awards for:

- Best Youth Program, Asian Television Awards—2001
- Best News Feature on TV, AIDS Media Awards—2001
- Best Children's Program, KBP Alay sa Kabataan Awards—2001
- Best Children's Show, Catholic Mass Media Awards—2000, 2001
- Best Children's Show Hosts, Star Awards—1995, 1997, 1998,1999, 2000, 2001
- Best Children's Show, Star Awards—1992, 1994, 1996
- Best Children's Show, KBP Golden Dove Awards for Television—1995, 1997
- Ten Best Television Programs, Gawad CCP—1993, 1998
- Citation for Promotion of Reading Among Children, Philippine Board on Books for Young Children
- Best Children's Program, Foundation for Gifted Children—1997
- Finalist, Best TV Show for Children and Young People, International Emmy Awards—1995
- Special Commendation, Japan Prize—1996
- Finalist, New York Festival for Television and Film—1996

The show's popularity has spawned the "5 & Up Club," with over 2,000 members nationwide. The club organizes fun and educational activities for its members as well as bi-annual outreach activities such as sports fests for indigent or orphaned children. Aside from opportunities to participate in workshops and excursions. Club benefits include a bi-monthly magazine, special giveaways, access to an interactive website, and a discount card to numerous establishments.

DISCUSSING politics with Sen. Joker Arroyo

DATA TOLENTINO



His name is
STITCH

3 feet tall, six hands
Eats cars and stuff
Really, really cute!
I named him Stitch
Help me look for him
inside Junior Inquirer

Disney's
Lilo & Stitch
In Cinemas August 14

Junior Inquirer
The Search for Stitch

How to join:

Open to all avid [illegible]
Find [illegible]

Cut-out all the Stitches, place them in an envelope with your name and address, age and phone number.

Hurry and send your entries!
Ten winners will be drawn every week.
Lucky entries will get a special 'Lilo & Stitch' Gift Pack!

Winners will be published in the August 17 issue of Junior Inquirer

send entries to:
Junior Inquirer
Marketing Department
PDI Bldg., Chino Roces Ave.
cor. Yague and Mascardo sts.
Makati City

Look for Ms. Masoy Cabuhat

Promo valid in GMM only.

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?Thinkathon?
BY BONG ALAMEDA

IN MEMORY OF JULY

JULY was originally known as Quintilis, the fifth month of the old Roman calendar. But after the death of the great Julius Caesar in 44 BC, it was renamed for him and consequently became the seventh month. So much for the history of July...now let's find out if you know some famous Philippine and world events that happened in this month.

1. Andres Bonifacio founded the Katipunan on July 7, 1892. Four days earlier Jose Rizal founded an equally patriotic, though much less militant, organization. What was its name?

2. The bloodiest civil war in world history broke out in China in July 1850, lasting 15 years and killing approximately 20 million people. How was it known?
   0 Boxer Uprising
   0 Taiping Rebellion
   0 Nanking Revolt

3. Do you remember the Spanish beauty who was crowned Miss Universe at the Folk Arts Theater on July 21, 1974?

4. Who married who at London's St. Paul's Cathedral on July 29, 1981?

5. In July of what year was the 10th World Boy Scout Jamboree held at Mt. Makiling in Los Baños, Laguna?
   0 1954
   0 1959
   0 1963

6. What religious movement was founded by Felix Manalo on July 27, 1914?

7. Who rocked his way to the top of the world's music charts in July 1957 with the hit single "All Shook Up"?
   0 Frank Sinatra
   0 Chuck Berry
   0 Elvis Presley

8. Who was the country's president when Philippine independence from the United States was declared at the Luneta on July 4, 1946?
   0 Manuel L. Quezon
   0 Sergio Osmena, Sr.
   0 Manuel A. Roxas

9. What major sporting event opened on July 19, 1980, but was deeply scarred by a US-led international boycott?

10. What craft landed on the Moon on July 21, 1969?
   0 Columbia
   0 Eagle
   0 Rover

11. For whom did Argentina cry on July 26, 1952?

12. Which legendary boxer, who made history by becoming the first Filipino and Asian to win a world title in 1923, died under mysterious circumstances in Oakland, California, on July 14, 1925?

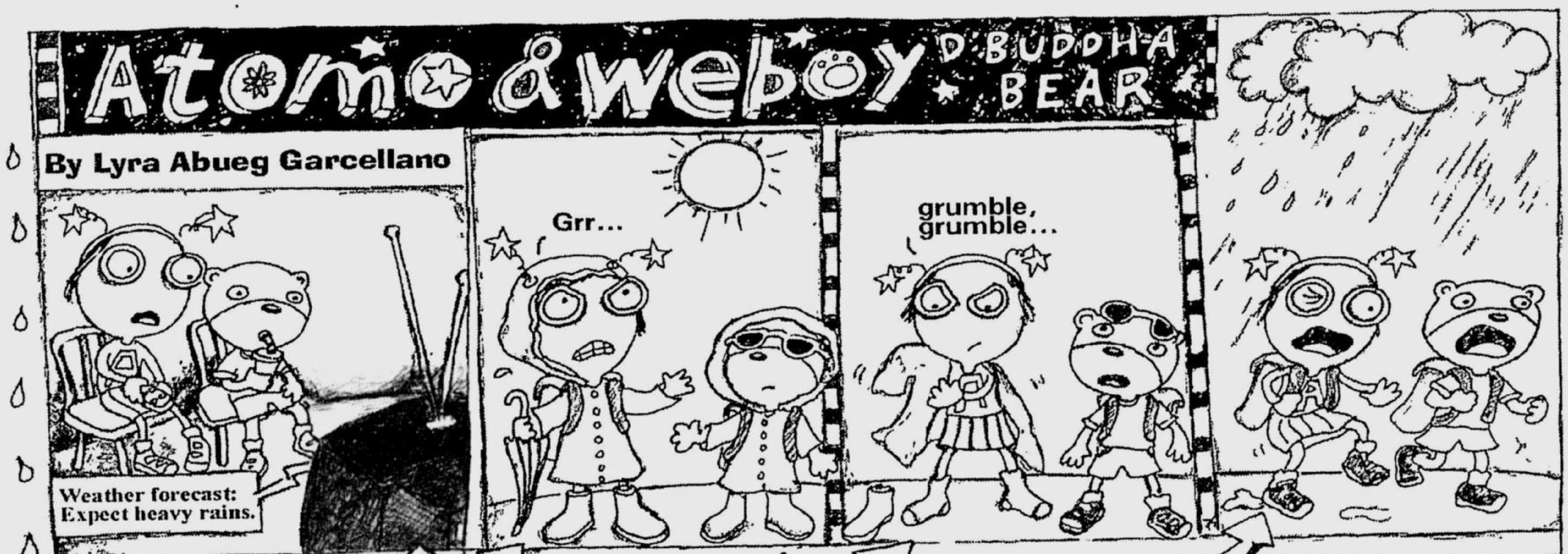
Answers:

1. La Liga Filipina
2. Taiping Rebellion.
3. Amparo Muñoz
4. Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer
5. 1959
6. Iglesia ni Kristo
7. Elvis Presley
8. Manuel A. Roxas
9. Moscow Olympics
10. Eagle (Apollo 11 lunar module)
11. Eva "Evita" Peron
12. Pancho Villa

Ratings:

superb
excellent
good

11-12 9-10 6-8


Atomo & Weboy D'BUDDHA BEAR
Weather forecast: Expect heavy rains.
Grr...
grumble, grumble...

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

Weird Weather Alert!
You've noticed that sometimes it's hot and sunny whereas other times it's all cold, wet, splashy and rainy! You're never sure what the weather will be so always be ready. It may be hot at one point but before you know it it's raining armadillos and cheetahs!

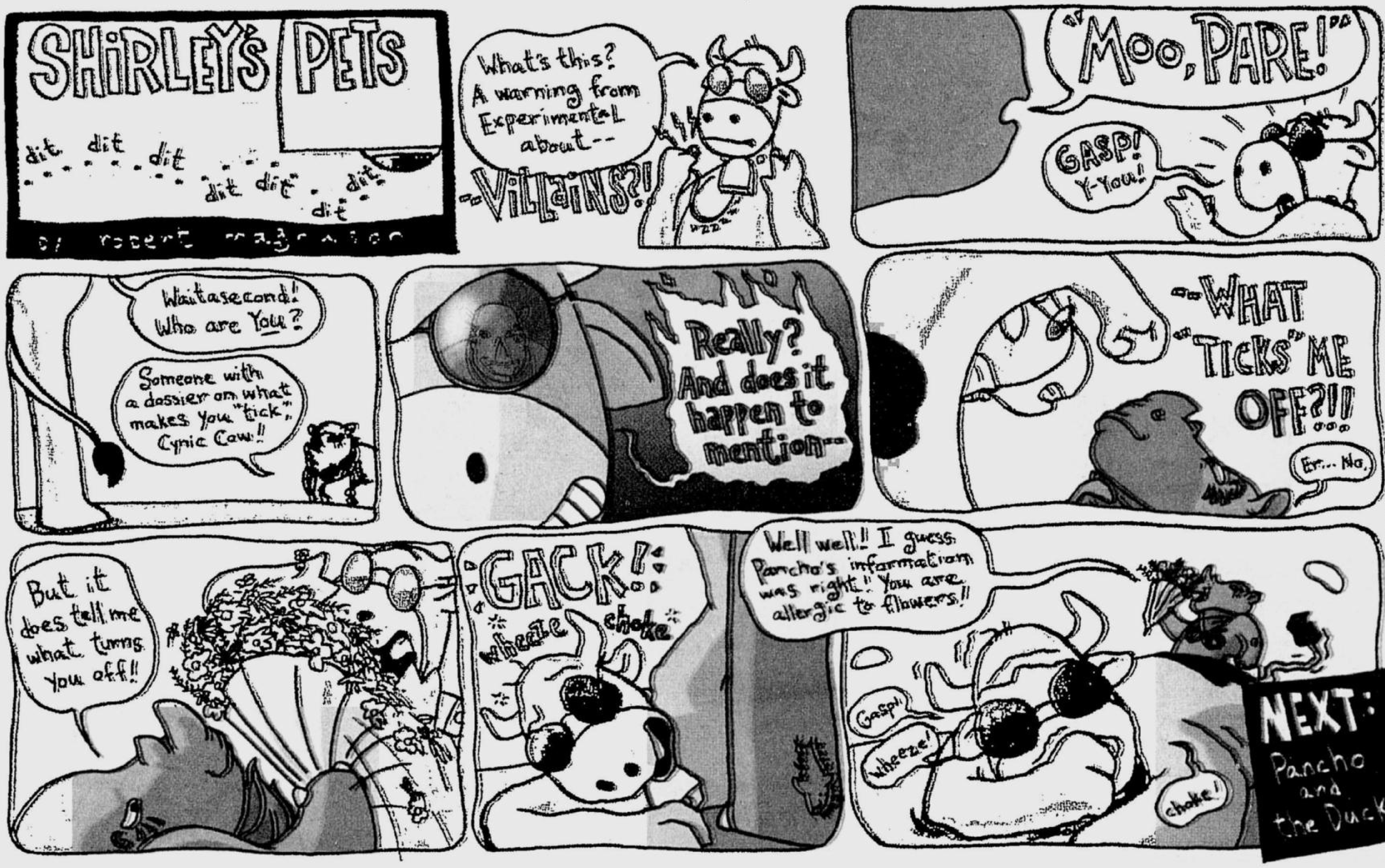
(Atomo & Weboy mean the cats and dogs kind.)

BE KIND TO YOUR FEET!

Always keep your feet happy by making sure they're clean and dry! After you've waded in the floods make sure you thoroughly clean those toes, ankles, soles, toenails, heels, etc. Flood waters are often dirty and about a ga-zillion bacteria are most likely to be found in it. So keep dem feet happy. Keep them clean.

Question: Hey, kid! What's a foot doctor called? **Answer:** Podiatrist

Last Episode: With unknown motives, a rival group of Super-Animals are picking off the neighborhood animal-heores one after the other.
As Control and Experimental are defeated, they manage to send out a distress signal to their fellow team mates...


SHIRLEY'S PETS
dit dit dit dit dit dit dit
by robert magnuson
What's this? A warning from Experimental about--
--VILLAINS?!
"MOO, PARE!"
GASP! Y-You!
Waitasecond! Who are YOU?
Someone with a dossier on what makes you "tick", Cynic Cow!!
Really? And does it happen to mention--
--WHAT "TICKS" ME OFF?!!
Er... No.
But it does tell me what turns you off!!
GACK!
wheeze choke
Well well!! I guess Pancho's information was right!! You are allergic to flowers!!
Gasp!!
wheeze!
choke!
NEXT: Pancho and the Duck

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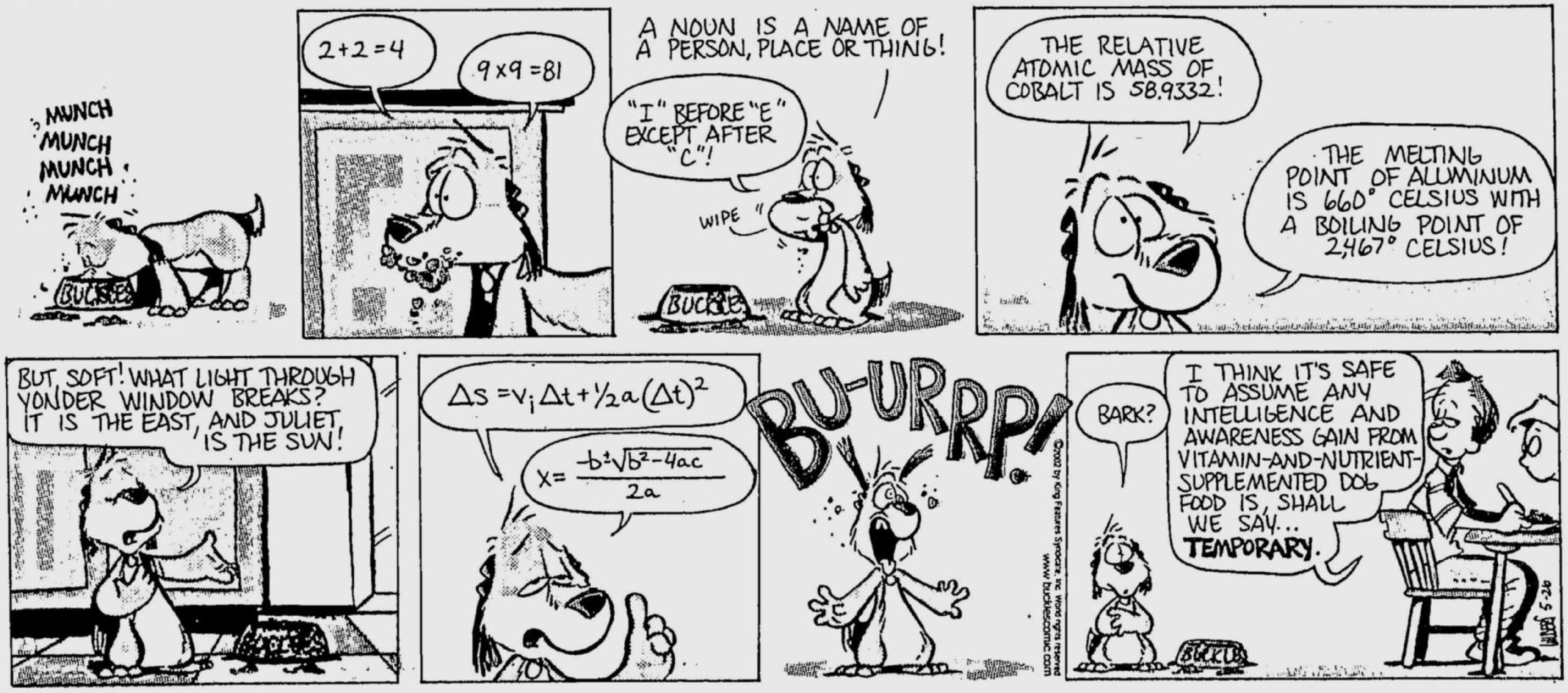
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
BUCKLES
2+2=4
9x9=81
A NOUN IS A NAME OF A PERSON, PLACE OR THING!
"I" BEFORE "E" EXCEPT AFTER "C"!
WIPE
BUCKLES
THE RELATIVE ATOMIC MASS OF COBALT IS 58.9332!
THE MELTING POINT OF ALUMINUM IS 660° CELSIUS WITH A BOILING POINT OF 2,467° CELSIUS!
BUT, SOFT! WHAT LIGHT THROUGH YONDER WINDOW BREAKS? IT IS THE EAST, AND JULIET IS THE SUN!
$\Delta s = v_i \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} a (\Delta t)^2$
$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$
BU-URRP!
BARK?
I THINK IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME ANY INTELLIGENCE AND AWARENESS GAIN FROM VITAMIN-AND-NUTRIENT-SUPPLEMENTED DOG FOOD IS, SHALL WE SAY... TEMPORARY.
BUCKLES
5-20

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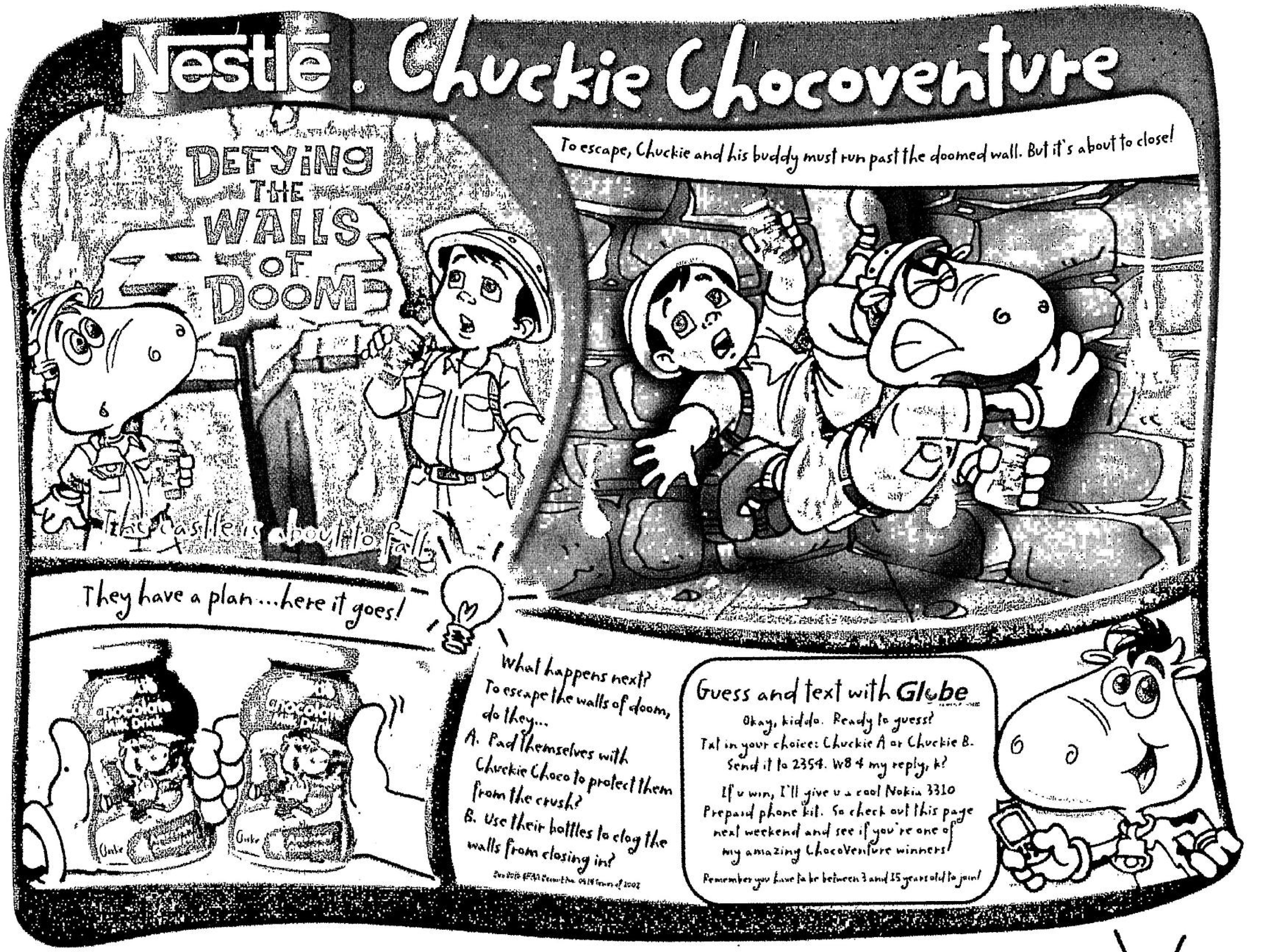
www.bucklescomic.com


Nestlé
Chuckie Chocoventure
DEFYING THE WALLS OF DOOM
The castle is about to fall!
To escape, Chuckie and his buddy must run past the doomed wall. But it's about to close!
They have a plan...here it goes!
Chocolate Milk Drink

What happens next?
To escape the walls of doom, do they...

A. Pad themselves with Chuckie Choco to protect them from the crush?

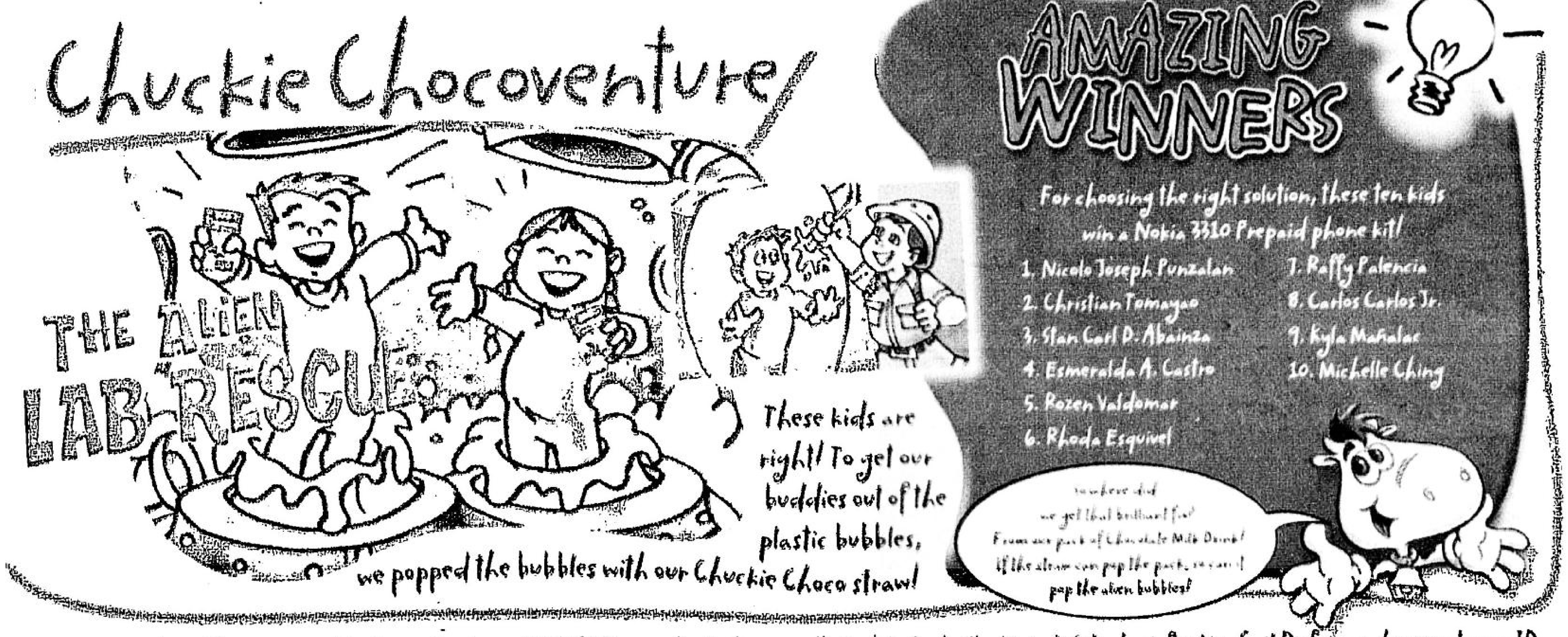
B. Use their bottles to clog the walls from closing in?

Guess and text with Globe

Okay, kiddo. Ready to guess?
Txt in your choice: Chuckie A or Chuckie B.
Send it to 2354. W8 4 my reply, k?

If u win, I'll give u a cool Nokia 3310 Prepaid phone kit. So check out this page next weekend and see if you're one of my amazing ChocoVenture winners!

Remember you have to be between 3 and 15 years old to join!


Chuckie Chocoventure
THE ALIEN LAB RESCUE
so where did
we get that brilliant fix?
From our pack of Chocolate Milk Drink!
If the straw can pop the pack, so can it
pop the alien bubbles!

These kids are right! To get our buddies out of the plastic bubbles, we popped the bubbles with our Chuckie Choco straw!

AMAZING WINNERS

For choosing the right solution, these ten kids win a Nokia 3310 Prepaid phone kit!

1. Nicolo Joseph Punzalan
2. Christian Tamayao
3. Stan Carl D. Abainza
4. Esmeralda A. Castro
5. Rozen Valdomar
6. Rhoda Esquivel
7. Raffy Palencia
8. Carlos Carlos Jr.
9. Kyla Mañalac
10. Michelle Ching

Winners may claim their prizes at McCann-Erickson, 34/F GT Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. H. V. dela Costa St., Makati City. Look for Mr. Gail Riofrio and present your ID.

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